

Grade 7

In total, 664,881 seventh graders read 7,330,480 books with 259,502,328,387 words during the 2016–2017 school year. On average, boys read 333,229 words and girls read 428,957.

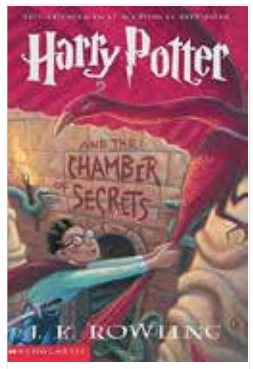
Top 25 Books Overall: Grade 7

Rank	2015–16 Rank	2014–15 Rank	2014–13 Rank	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*
1	2	1	4	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)
2	3	3	2	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)
3	✗	✗	✗	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down , Jeff Kinney (5.5, MG)
4	1	✗	✗	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School , Jeff Kinney (5.6, MG)
5	8	9	14	Freak the Mighty/The Mighty , Rodman Philbrick (5.5, UG)
6	5	7	5	The Hunger Games , Suzanne Collins (5.3, MG+)
7	4	2	✗	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul , Jeff Kinney (5.4, MG)
8	9	14	12	The Lightning Thief , Rick Riordan (4.7, MG)
9	11	12	11	Rikki-Tikki-Tavi , Rudyard Kipling (5.0, LG)
10	6	8	1	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck , Jeff Kinney (5.5, MG)
11	24	41	79	A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story , Linda Sue Park (5.0, MG+)
12	13	18	20	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules , Jeff Kinney (5.2, MG)
13	15	15	19	The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 , Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0, MG)
14	12	16	15	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days , Jeff Kinney (5.2, MG)
15	14	17	17	Diary of a Wimpy Kid , Jeff Kinney (5.2, MG)
16	23	28	32	Wonder , R.J. Palacio (4.8, MG)
17	17	21	18	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth , Jeff Kinney (5.5, MG)
18	19	24	21	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw , Jeff Kinney (5.4, MG)
19	16	13	8	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel , Jeff Kinney (5.6, MG)
20	18	19	10	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever , Jeff Kinney (5.8, MG)
21	7	5	38	The Maze Runner , James Dashner (5.3, UG)
22	10	6	3	Divergent , Veronica Roth (4.8, UG)
23	36	46	47	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets , J.K. Rowling (6.7, MG)
24	27	37	42	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone , J.K. Rowling (5.5, MG)
25	21	26	23	Hatchet , Gary Paulsen (5.7, MG)



Top Book Overall

The Giver, Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)



Moved Up 13 Spots

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, J.K. Rowling (6.7, MG)

* The average ATOS level of the top 25 books seventh graders read was 5.3. ATOS level and interest level together inform book selection. ATOS level is an estimate of text difficulty reported on a grade-level scale. Interest level refers to the sophistication/maturity of a text's content, ideas, and themes: LG (lower grades, K–3), MG (middle grades, 4–8), MG+ (middle grades plus, 6 and up), and UG (upper grades, 9–12).

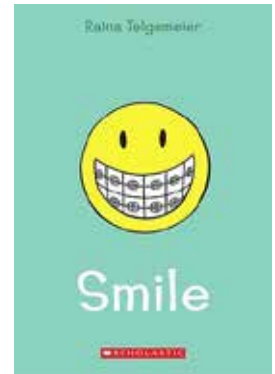
✗ Title did not rank within report time frame.

For additional insights on what kids are reading, visit www.renaissance.com/wkar

Top 10 Nonfiction Books: Grade 7

Rank	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*
1	Smile , Raina Telgemeier (2.6, MG)
2	Sisters , Raina Telgemeier (2.4, MG)
3	A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive , Dave Pelzer (5.8, UG)
4	I Am Malala: Young Readers Edition , Malala Yousafzai (5.9, MG)
5	Chasing Lincoln's Killer , James L. Swanson (7.5, MG+)
6	Night , Elie Wiesel (4.8, UG)
7	El Deafo , Cece Bell (2.7, MG)
8	Football , Cynthia Klingel (2.1, LG)
9	Basketball , Morgan Hughes (5.7, LG)
10	The Miracle Worker , William Gibson (5.2, UG)

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Top Nonfiction Book

Smile, Raina Telgemeier
(2.6, MG)

Top 10 Nonfiction Articles: Grade 7

Rank	Title (ATOS® level)*	Source
1	Any More Earths Out There? (6.4)	Highlights Magazine
2	Monarch Butterflies May Travel with Magnetic Compass (7.6)	Associated Press
3	Getting Animals to Shine On-Screen Is a Wild Job (6.6)	Associated Press
4	A Grand Canyon Beneath Greenland's Ice (7.1)	Nick News
5	Eating Insects Is Good for You and the World (6.4)	Associated Press
6	Video Gaming a Popular Spectator Sport (7.4)	Associated Press
7	This Robot Can Run Faster, Jump Higher, and Pour a Glass of Juice (5.6)	Nick News
8	A Lucky Two Percent of People Have a Stink-Free Ampit Gene (7.6)	Smithsonian Articles
9	Editing Your Life's Stories Can Create Happier Endings (7.3)	NPR
10	The Government Says No More Junk Food Ads in Schools (7.3)	Associated Press

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Kids' Highest-Rated Books: Grade 7

Rank	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*
1	Brothers in Arms , Paul Langan (4.1, MG+)
2	While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age During the Civil Rights Movement , Carolyn Maull McKinstry (7.4, UG) NF
3	Forged by Fire , Sharon M. Draper (4.7, MG)
4	The Skin I'm In , Sharon G. Flake (4.1, MG+)
5	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian , Sherman Alexie (4.0, UG)

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NF = nonfiction title.

Titles that Bookend the School Year: Grade 7

Rank	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*	
	First Book Read	Last Book Read
1	Rikki-Tikki-Tavi , Rudyard Kipling (5.0, LG)	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)
2	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)
3	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School , Jeff Kinney (5.6, MG)	Thirteen Reasons Why , Jay Asher (3.9, MG+)
4	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)	Freak the Mighty/The Mighty , Rodman Philbrick (5.5, UG)
5	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul , Jeff Kinney (5.4, MG)	Tangerine , Edward Bloor (4.3, MG)

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10 Years of Number 1 Books: Grade 7

Report	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*
2009 Edition	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)
2010 Edition	Twilight , Stephenie Meyer (4.9, MG)
2011 Edition	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days , Jeff Kinney (5.2, MG)
2012 Edition	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth , Jeff Kinney (5.5, MG)
2013 Edition	The Hunger Games , Suzanne Collins (5.3, MG+)
2014 Edition	The Hunger Games , Suzanne Collins (5.3, MG+)
2015 Edition	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck , Jeff Kinney (5.5, MG)
2016 Edition	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)
2017 Edition	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School , Jeff Kinney (5.6, MG)
2018 Edition	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)

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Number 1 Book,
2009

The Outsiders,
S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)



Number 1 Book,
2018

The Giver, Lois Lowry
(5.7, MG)

Grade 8

In total, 609,117 eighth graders read 5,865,791 books with 241,147,268,347 words during the 2016–2017 school year. On average, boys read 326,787 words and girls read 448,559.

Top 25 Books Overall: Grade 8

Rank	2015–16 Rank	2014–15 Rank	2013–14 Rank	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*
1	1	2	1	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)
2	2	1	3	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)
3	4	8	9	The Tell-Tale Heart , Edgar Allan Poe (7.3, UG)
4	✗	✗	✗	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down , Jeff Kinney (5.5, MG)
5	5	10	10	The Diary of Anne Frank , Frances Goodrich (3.1, MG)
6	3	✗	✗	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School , Jeff Kinney (5.6, MG)
7	6	7	5	The Hunger Games , Suzanne Collins (5.3, MG+)
8	11	15	15	Night , Elie Wiesel (4.8, UG) NF
9	12	18	18	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas , John Boyne (5.8, UG)
10	15	19	17	To Kill a Mockingbird , Harper Lee (5.6, UG)
11	17	26	33	The Monkey's Paw , W.W. Jacobs (6.5, UG)
12	7	4	20	The Maze Runner , James Dashner (5.3, UG)
13	8	6	✗	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul , Jeff Kinney (5.4, MG)
14	83	59	56	Thirteen Reasons Why , Jay Asher (3.9, MG+)
15	18	24	16	The Lightning Thief , Rick Riordan (4.7, MG)
16	10	5	2	Divergent , Veronica Roth (4.8, UG)
17	29	45	53	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets , J.K. Rowling (6.7, MG)
18	20	34	49	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone , J.K. Rowling (5.5, MG)
19	14	3	4	The Fault in Our Stars , John Green (5.5, UG)
20	85	115	161	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children , Ransom Riggs (5.7, UG)
21	42	62	65	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban , J.K. Rowling (6.7, MG)
22	16	13	6	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck , Jeff Kinney (5.5, MG)
23	30	35	43	Wonder , R.J. Palacio (4.8, MG)
24	24	30	47	The Call of the Wild , Jack London (8.0, MG)
25	44	63	59	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire , J.K. Rowling (6.8, MG)

* The average ATOS level of the top 25 books eighth graders read was 5.4. ATOS level and interest level together inform book selection. ATOS level is an estimate of text difficulty reported on a grade-level scale. Interest level refers to the sophistication/maturity of a text's content, ideas, and themes: LG (lower grades, K–3), MG (middle grades, 4–8), MG+ (middle grades plus, 6 and up), and UG (upper grades, 9–12).

✗ Title did not rank within report time frame. **NF** = nonfiction title.



Top Book Overall

The Outsiders,
S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)



Moved Up 69 Spots

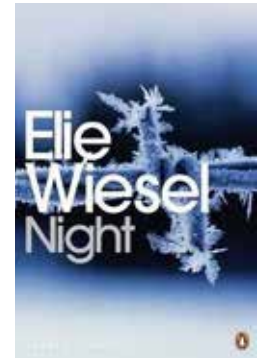
Thirteen Reasons Why,
Jay Asher (3.9, MG+)

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Top 10 Nonfiction Books: Grade 8

Rank	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*
1	Night , Elie Wiesel (4.8, UG)
2	A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive , Dave Pelzer (5.8, UG)
3	The Diary of a Young Girl , Anne Frank (6.5, MG+)
4	Smile , Raina Telgemeier (2.6, MG)
5	Chasing Lincoln's Killer , James L. Swanson (7.5, MG+)
6	Sisters , Raina Telgemeier (2.4, MG)
7	Basketball , Morgan Hughes (5.7, LG)
8	I Am Malala: Young Readers Edition , Malala Yousafzai (5.9, MG)
9	Football , Cynthia Klingel (2.1, LG)
10	The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family , Dave Pelzer (5.1, UG)

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Top Nonfiction Book

Night, Elie Wiesel
(4.8, UG)

Top 10 Nonfiction Articles: Grade 8

Rank	Title (ATOS® level)*	Source
1	The Girl Who Swims with Sharks and Protects Them (8.9)	Smithsonian Articles
2	Video Gaming a Popular Spectator Sport (7.4)	Associated Press
3	A Grand Canyon Beneath Greenland's Ice (7.1)	Nick News
4	Inside Black Holes (9.2)	Smithsonian Articles
5	Editing Your Life's Stories Can Create Happier Endings (7.3)	NPR
6	A New, More Efficient Filter Helps Astronauts Drink Their Own Urine (8.0)	Smithsonian Articles
7	Monarch Butterflies May Travel with Magnetic Compass (7.6)	Associated Press
8	A Lucky Two Percent of People Have a Stink-Free Armpit Gene (7.6)	Smithsonian Articles
9	Skyjack: The Unsolved Case of D.B. Cooper's Escape (8.3)	NPR
10	Why Aren't Teens Reading Like They Used To? (7.6)	NPR

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10 Years of Number 1 Books: Grade 8

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2010 Edition	Twilight , Stephenie Meyer (4.9, MG)
2011 Edition	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)
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2013 Edition	The Hunger Games , Suzanne Collins (5.3, MG+)
2014 Edition	The Hunger Games , Suzanne Collins (5.3, MG+)
2015 Edition	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)
2016 Edition	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)
2017 Edition	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)
2018 Edition	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)

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**Number 1 Book,
2009, 2011, 2012,
2015, 2017, 2018**

The Outsiders,
S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)



**Number 1 Book,
2013, 2014**

The Hunger Games,
Suzanne Collins
(5.3, MG+)

Kids' Highest-Rated Books: Grade 8

Rank	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*
1	Forged by Fire , Sharon M. Draper (4.7, MG)
2	Brothers in Arms , Paul Langan (4.1, MG+)
3	Someone to Love Me , Anne Schraff (4.5, MG+)
4	The Test , Peggy Kern (4.0, MG+)
5	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates , Wes Moore (7.1, UG) NF

For more information on data sources, please see the Appendix, p. 72.

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Titles that Bookend the School Year: Grade 8

Rank	Title, author (ATOS® level, interest level)*	
	First Book Read	Last Book Read
1	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)	The Outsiders , S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG)
2	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)	The Giver , Lois Lowry (5.7, MG)
3	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School , Jeff Kinney (5.6, MG)	Thirteen Reasons Why , Jay Asher (3.9, MG+)
4	Raymond's Run , Toni Cade Bambara (5.0, MG)	The Diary of Anne Frank , Frances Goodrich (3.1, MG)
5	The Tell-Tale Heart , Edgar Allan Poe (7.3, UG)	To Kill a Mockingbird , Harper Lee (5.6, UG)

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