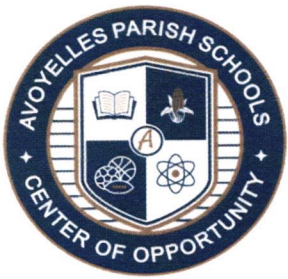




AVOYELLES
— Parish Schools —

**7TH GRADE
SUMMER READING
2024**



Avoyelles Parish Schools

221 Tunica Drive West
Marksville, Louisiana 71351

Karen L. Tutor
Superintendent
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Dear Seventh Grade Students and Parents,

We aim to ignite a love of reading in all of our children in Avoyelles Parish. This summer we are sending free books home with your child to continue to grow our readers. Just reading 20 minutes a day will grow their vocabulary by 1.8 million words a year. The reading gift your child received today contains some of the books listed below. It contains some family activities that we hope you will dive into with your child. Use the activities in the journal to connect with what you are reading and engage in conversations with others. Invite your family and friends to read with you and talk about the topics in the books. **Your child is required to choose ONE book and return pg. 13 Word Workout and four additional activities from the reading journal upon arrival at school next year to be graded.**

Seventh Grade Summer Reading List
The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera
Tumble by Celia C. Perez
Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit by Jesse Q. Sutanto
It's the End of the World and I'm in my Bathing Suit by Justin A. Reynolds
Nightmare Island by Shakirah Bourne

Note: Some packets may have other Scholastic Books not on the list. They are still approved and can be used.

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know
The MORE that you
LEARN,
the MORE places you'll go.



Have a great summer!

DEAR STUDENT,

Good news! Your school has partnered with Scholastic to give you a great set of books to read over the summer. These books are a gift for you to enjoy, share with others, and keep. Inside this packet, you will find:

- ▶ Interesting and fun books
- ▶ Activity Sheets that go with each book
- ▶ A Summer Reading Journal

The goal of My Books Summer is for you, your family, and your friends to engage with books in a way that is fun and interactive. Reading can be so much more than the words on a page when you use the text as a springboard for conversations and ideas.

As you read, take a look at the Activity Sheet that goes with the book. Complete the different sections in any order and at any pace that is comfortable for you. Ask your family to read the Activity Sheets with you, and see whether you can turn a single book into an experience for you and your family.

The Summer Reading Journal is another way for you to get the most out of what you are reading. The journal can be used with any book in this packet or any book in general. Enjoy your summer, and happy reading!

DEAR FAMILY,

Even though your child is now an independent reader, there are still many ways to enjoy literature together. Sometimes you may read a book together; other times, your child may read independently. You might simply scan the title and read the information on the back cover. Whether you read alongside your child or have conversations with him or her about the book, partnering together can make reading more fun and meaningful.

Use the Activity Sheets provided in the My Books Summer packet as a way to talk with your child about what they are reading. Share any connections that you may have to the stories, and ask your child questions about the books. Use the conversations that stem from these books as a window into your child's world. Enjoy the experience of connecting with your child in a way that promotes learning, conversation, and family engagement.

HAPPY READING!



Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit

by Jesse Q. Sutanto

Before Reading

What do you notice about the image on the cover? What do you think might happen in this book? Is there anything on the cover that reminds you of other books you've read?

While Reading

As you read, pause and think or write about these questions:

- After Chapters 1–10: What is cirth? What are companion spirits? What is the Know Your Roots program at Reapling Corp.? How is Mandarin a “tonal” language?
- After Chapters 11–22: Why does Director Ward call Theo into his office? What happens when a companion spirit performs a bad deed? What do Theo and Kai find under the library floorboard?
- After Chapters 23–37: What does Theo find in the almanac? What does connection to culture have to do with accessing qi? How does Kai define identity? Why does Peng need Theo to figure out who kidnapped him? What happens to Kai after shape-shifting into Director Ward? How does Theo counteract this? What does Kai do to Danny?
- After Chapters 38–Epilogue: What are Xiuling and Director Ward really doing? What does Theo realize about what he's been asking Kai to do? What do Theo and Xiuling have in common? How does Theo stop Niu Mo Wang, and how does this help him connect with family history and his ancestors? What does Theo learn about Jamie's soul?

After Reading

How does Theo's relationship to his heritage change by the end of the book? How do his feelings about speaking Mandarin reflect this?

Literacy Tip

In Kai's chapters, the author uses footnotes at the bottom of the page to allow Kai to step out of the story and comment—hilariously—on the action.

Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit

by Jesse Q. Sutanto

Write It

Theo was embarrassed by his Chinese culture and heritage until he learned its power and importance in his life. What, if anything, about your family or your history—or yourself—embarrasses you? Why? How does this create problems for you? Can you imagine a time or situation in which you would no longer be embarrassed? What do you think it would take to get to that point? What does it feel like to imagine no longer being embarrassed?

Think about an embarrassing scene from your life. Then write about it in whatever style you like—as a few panels from a comic book or graphic novel (with text and illustrations), as a scene from a play (with dialogue), or as a personal essay.

Nightmare Island

by Shakirah Bourne

Before Reading

What elements on the cover work together to tell you the *genre* (category based on content—sci-fi, romance, and so on) and *mood* (vibe) of this book?

While Reading

As you read, pause and think or write about these questions:

- After Establishing Shot—Take 11—Don't Tell: What is unique about Serenity? Why does she want to make the scariest horror movie of all time? What does Serenity do when her parents try to send her to Gran's? What is a duppy, and why are they on Duppy Island? What is a douen? What does Serenity notice about people's music on the island?
- After Takes 12–20: How does Serenity know something is wrong with Peace? And with her parents? Why does the clinic seem familiar? What do her parents finally tell her about Peace, Dr. Whisper, and the island?
- After Takes 21–30: What does Serenity figure out about Peace? How does the real Peace try to tell Serenity what's going on? What does Trill want her to do? What does Dr. Whisper reveal about what he's doing, and why?
- After Take 31—Miracle of Life: How do Serenity and Trill save Serenity's family? Why does she destroy her footage of Duppy Island?

After Reading

How does Serenity's ability to hear people's music help her throughout the book? What kind of information does it give her about Peace, Dr. Whisper, Jacob, and others?

Literacy Tip

This book is told from the first-person point of view—the narrator, Serenity, tells her story using the pronoun “I”—which isn't unusual. What is unusual *is* that Serenity tells the scariest parts as a director, talking about how she would shoot and score her terror.

Nightmare Island

by Shakirah Bourne

Write It

"You can't force people into who you want them to be . . . You have to love them for who they are."
(p. 235)

"The perfect family is one that loves you. You may not get along all the time, but they're there for you when it really matters." (p. 279)

Pick one of the quotes above and write a personal essay about ways in which it connects to your relationships and/or your family. Explain why the quote resonates with you, whether you agree with it, and how it shifts or sheds light on your interactions with the people you love.

Tumble

by Celia C. Pérez

Before Reading

Take a close look at the cover. (Don't forget the tagline!) What can you guess about the main character? Now read the back cover to determine whether or not you were right.

While Reading

As you read, pause and think or write about these questions:

- After Chapters 1–9: What are Adela and her mother not talking about, and why? Why does Adela want to find her first Christmas photo? How does the photo lead her to the historical society? What does she learn there?
- After Chapters 10–17: How does Adela get her mother to let her meet Manny? Who does Adela meet when she visits Manny? Why does Mrs. González cast Adela as Marie in *The Nutcracker*?
- After Chapters 18–28: Why is it hard for Adela to learn about her mother from the Bravos? What kind of pressure is Manny feeling? Why does he bring Adela to his match? What does Uncle Mateo teach Adela and her castmates about wrestling?
- After Chapters 29–39: In what ways does Manny disappoint Adela? How does Uncle Mateo help Adela understand Manny? How does performing in *The Nutcracker* help Adela understand Manny? What finally makes Adela's mom tell the story of her relationship with Manny? Why does Adela bring Rosie's photo and cape to the historical society?

After Reading

What does Adela get out of searching for—and finding—Manny? How does it change her relationship with her mother, and with herself?

Literacy Tip

At the end, Manny gives Adela a beautiful wrestling mask. It's a complicated gift because it represents many things at once—their shared love of wrestling; Manny's love for Adela, whom he doesn't really know; and the sport that Manny continues to choose over Adela.

Tumble

by Celia C. Pérez

Write It

“Sometimes hate and fear are just two sides of the same coin.” (p. 136)

Take a moment to think about this quote. How are fear and hate connected? Think about a place, activity, thing—even a person—you *think* you hate. Why do you think your feelings are so strong? Is it possible that you are, on some level, afraid? Write a brief essay, journal entry, letter to yourself, or something else, explaining what the quote means and why you do (or do not) connect with it, using examples from your own life.

The Last Cuentista

by Donna Barba Higuera

Before Reading

What is a *cuentista*? (If you don't know, look it up online.) What different elements do you see in the cover image? How do the title and the image combine to hint at what—and who—this book is about?

While Reading

As you read, take time to pause and think, talk, or write about these questions:

After reading Chapters 1–9: Where are Petra and her family going? Who isn't going, and what problems does this cause? What is "collective unity"? What does the Collective think it will accomplish?

After reading Chapters 10–19: What is an "epiderm filter"? What does the Collective use it for? What are *Zetas* and why do they exist? What is missing from the ship, and from Collective culture in general? Why does this disturb Petra?

After reading Chapters 20–25: Why does Petra tell cuentos even though it's forbidden? How is Voxy affected by cuentos? How are Rubio, Suma, and Feathers affected?

After reading Chapters 26–30: What is Nyla's view of humans and ancestry? How does this conflict with Petra's view? What is Javier's final gift to Petra?

After Reading

The Collective believes in erasing the past to improve the future. Petra's father believed that remembering the past is the way to make things better. What do you believe, and why?

Literacy Tip:

Either directly or indirectly, the author references several real books in the text—*The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin, *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville, *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales—perhaps suggesting which stories and characters she thinks are so important they'll endure not only across time but across space as well.

The Last Cuentista

by Donna Barba Higuera

Write About It

"Equality's good. But equality and sameness are two different things. Sometimes those who say things without really contemplating what it truly means . . . That dogma runs a thin line." (page 19)

"I have never had the opportunity to speak with one of you. A relic, that is," [Nyla] says. "You are one of the few left who actually experienced what your kind had become. Polluting your own air and rivers and oceans . . . for profit. Starving some so others become bloated. It is for those reasons the Collective exists." (page 256)

In your opinion, which of the quotes above speaks to the biggest problem facing humanity today? You may explore this question in one of two ways—or create your own way:

Debate: Write a script for a debate about which of the quotes represents the biggest problem facing humanity today.

Argument: Choose one of the quotes, and write an argument supporting why you believe its underlying theme (equality or destroying Earth's resources for profit) is the biggest problem facing humanity today.

It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit

by Justin A. Reynolds

Before Reading

Would it be a bummer to be wearing a bathing suit and flip-flops at the end of the world? Why or why not? What would you prefer to be wearing, and why?

While Reading

As you read, take time to pause and think, talk, or write about the following questions. And, before you jump into the story, BE SURE to read the notes from "storytelling master," Eddie Gordon Holloway, on pages 1–2!

After reading Chapters 100–1100: How does Eddie feel about laundry, and why? What does the basement have to do with his feelings? How is laundry keeping Eddie from the Beach Bash?

After reading Chapters 1200–2600: How does Eddie feel about Real Dad? How does he feel about WBD? What feelings is he struggling with regarding WBD and Mom, and why?

After reading Chapters 2700–4000: How does Eddie feel about Sonia? What does he think of her? How does he help Sonia break out of her *Monster Hunters II* daze?

After reading Chapter 4100–the end: What does Eddie mean when he wonders, ". . . what if this is an entirely new book?" (page 225)? What is he worrying about? What is starting to sink in? What is Sonia's theory about what's happening? What's Eddie's theory?

After Reading

What's the first small clue that something has gone awry with the world? What do detergent and Eddie's phone have to do with it? What happens that finally makes it impossible for Eddie to deny that something is wrong?

Literacy Tip:

This book is told from the first-person point of view. The narrator, Eddie, tells his story using the pronoun *I*—which isn't unusual. What *is* unusual is that Eddie talks to you directly, asking you questions and sometimes even answering them for you . . . *as you!*

It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit

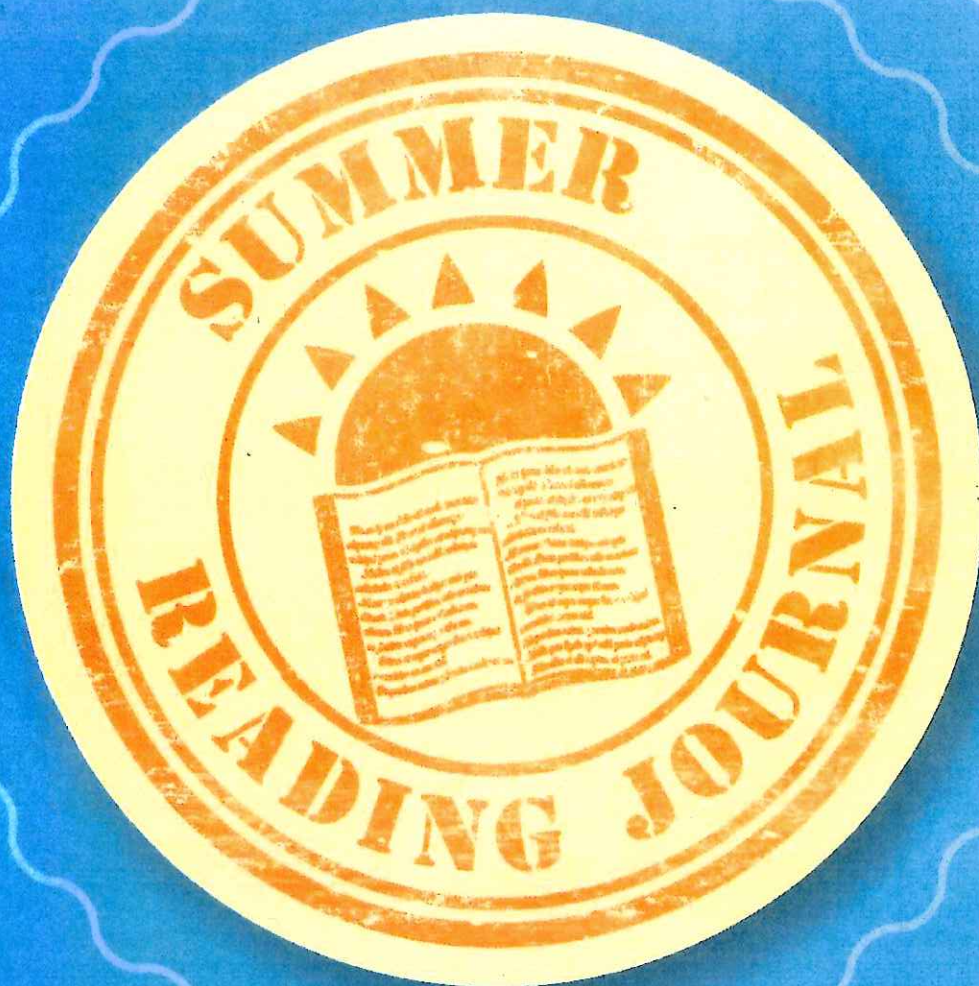
by Justin A. Reynolds

Write About It

In chapter 4900, Eddie and Trey have an important conversation.

What is it about? How do they confide in each other? How do they help each other? Write a brief summary about their conversation, explaining why it's important to the story. Speculate how this conversation might play a role in the *next* book in the series!

Grades
6-12



 SCHOLASTIC

Welcome to My BOOKS Summer

Dear Student,

This Summer Reading Journal is intended to be used with books that you already have in your home or that you check out from your local library. Use the activities in the journal to connect with what you are reading and spark family conversations. Invite your family to read with you, and encourage them to talk about the topics in each book. Books can be amazing starting points for shared experiences of laughter, imagination, and insight! Use the following tips to enhance your reading experience.

BEFORE READING: It is important to think about what you are going to read before beginning. This can set the stage for a more powerful reading experience.

- **Investigate the front cover.** How does the title relate to the image on the cover? What do you think this book will be about?
- **Discuss what you know about the topic.** For nonfiction books, think about questions you hope are answered in the text.

DURING READING: Thinking about the subject matter and text while you are reading can lead to a deeper understanding of the book.

- **Read stories and sections of stories multiple times.** You can discover subtleties and deeper meanings in the text with each reading.
- For longer books, **pause at section or chapter breaks** to monitor your own understanding. Can you explain what has happened in the book? What do you think will happen next? Look up any words or ideas you may not know.
- Pay attention to **plot and character development** as you read. Think about how different characters change throughout the book and how events in the plot affect each character. Consider which events impact the resolution of the book.

- **Discuss the author's craft.** Did the author use a particular style to tell the story? Did the author use any literary devices that require you to think beyond the literal meaning of the text? What message is the author conveying with similes, metaphors, idioms, and irony? Think about why the author made these decisions.
- **Look beyond the text.** Look for photographs, illustrations, and images that provide deeper meaning to the story.

AFTER READING: The impact and experience of reading a book do not end when the last page is turned. Thinking about and discussing ideas from a book after reading add new levels of meaning and understanding.

- **Discuss personal connections.** Have you ever had an experience like the main character? Have you ever visited a place like the setting of the book? Imagine what it would be like to be a character in the story.
- **Find the common thread that ties the story together.** In fiction stories, look for a theme. What events support the theme? In nonfiction stories, look for the main idea. What evidence supports the main idea?
- **Think about how you feel about what you have read.** You may read stories about important social issues or injustices from the past. Sometimes these topics can be difficult to read or think about. It can be helpful to write down your reaction to a book after reading, or to discuss these feelings with a friend or family member.

Most importantly, make reading a thoughtful experience that extends beyond the pages of the book. Talk about what you are reading with family and friends. Think critically and creatively about what you have read, and enjoy the adventure of reading!

Happy Reading,
Your Friends at Scholastic

Designed by Lindsey Dekker and Brian LaRossa.
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ISBN-13: 978-1-338-30465-7 • ISBN-10: 1-338-30465-8

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Ready, Set, Text

Pretend you are texting with a friend. Answer each question to tell your pal about a book you just read.

Title _____ by _____

Read any good books lately? What?

Tell me about the main character. Would I like this person?

What was the tone of the story? How did it make you feel?

Should I read this book? Why or why not?

EXTRA!

On a separate sheet of paper, keep the pretend conversation going. Pose more questions about the book and answer them as texts.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

There are usually crucial points in life that require people—whether real or fictional—to make important decisions. Choose two people or characters from a book you read, and write about a moment of decision for each of them. Then write about the outcomes of those decisions. Include page numbers to show where in the book you found the information you cite.

Title _____ by _____

<p>Character 1</p>	<p>Moment of Decision</p> <p>Page _____</p>	<p>Outcome</p> <p>Page _____</p>
<p>Character 2</p>	<p>Moment of Decision</p> <p>Page _____</p>	<p>Outcome</p> <p>Page _____</p>



Right or wrong decision? Choose one of the decisions. On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph telling whether you think the person or character made the right or wrong choice.

The Way I See It . . .

Who's telling the story? The point of view—the perspective from which a story is told—affects how much is revealed about the characters and events in a story. Answer the questions below to explore the point of view of a book you read.

Title _____ by _____

1. Who's telling the story? _____

2. What evidence from the text can you cite that makes that clear? _____

3. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from that viewpoint? _____

Now write a paragraph explaining how the story would be different if it were told from another character's perspective.



Tweet, Tweet

Time to broadcast your opinion to the world! Compose four tweets to tell about a book you read, adding a fitting hashtag for each. Challenge yourself to make the tweets super exciting. And remember, the Twitter character limit is 140 characters.

Title _____ by _____

Describe the main character to a T:



Tell when and where the book is set:



Briefly recap the book's plot:



Blast a blurb that will make everyone on Earth want to read it:



EXTRA!

Having fun? On a separate sheet of paper, compose more tweets about the same title.

Incredible Quotation

Read any good biographies lately? Find two important quotations from a book you read. Then complete the chart below.

Title _____ by _____

<p>Quotation</p> <p>Speaker _____ Page _____</p>	<p>This quotation made me think ...</p>
<p>Quotation</p> <p>Speaker _____ Page _____</p>	<p>This quotation made me think ...</p>

Find That Feeling

A book has the power to make you feel happy, sad, relieved, surprised—and every other emotion in between! Browse through a book you recently read and see if you can find an event that made you feel each emotion below. Describe the events in your own words and add page numbers for reference.

Title _____ by _____

I felt...	Event	Page(s)	Why I felt this way
happy			
sad			
relieved			
surprised			



What OTHER emotion did the book make you feel? On a separate sheet of paper, write about it.

Switch Position

Pick an informational book you read in which the author took a stand and made his or her opinion known. First, write a paragraph in which you agree with the author. Be sure to back up your claims by citing information from the text. Then, switch your position and write a paragraph that disagrees with the author. When you're done, check the box to tell how you REALLY feel.

Title _____ by _____

Write a paragraph in which you **AGREE** with the author:

Write a paragraph in which you **DISAGREE** with the author:

Now tell how you REALLY feel: I agree with the author. I disagree.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Imagine you could invite one of the characters in your book to dinner. Which character would you choose? Write four questions you would ask him or her.

Title _____ by _____

Character _____

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Question 4: _____

In a short paragraph, explain why you chose the character you did.



What food should be served at the dinner? On a separate sheet of paper, decide what your character would like to have for dinner and tell why.

The Kind of Person Who...

How would you describe the characters in a book you read? Choose three characters and complete each of the sentences below.

Title _____ by _____

1. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

2. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

3. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

EXTRA!

On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about the kind of person who would like to read the book you read and explain why.

Word Workout

Give your vocabulary a workout! Keep track of the BEST new words you learned from books this summer.

	Word	Definition
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		



Love words? Start a word journal in which you write down all your favorites.

My Reading Log

Time to kick back and read! Record the titles and genres of each new book you devour. Then rate it with one to five stars.

	Title of Book	Fiction or Nonfiction	How I Felt About It
1			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
2			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
3			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
5			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
6			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
7			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
8			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
9			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
10			★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Name _____

Grades 6-12

My BOOKS
Summer

ISBN-13: 978-1-338-30465-7
ISBN-10: 1-338-30465-8



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