To continue to develop your personal tastes in reading and to maintain (and even increase) your reading skill level, read at least 10 full-length texts over the summer months, such as these:

- *Belly Up* (Gibbs)
- *Between Shades of Gray* (Sepetys)
- *Chasing Vermeer* series (Balliett)
- *Death Cloud* (Lane)
- *Hidden* (Frost)
- *The Maze Runner* series (Dashner)
- *Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf* (Holm)
- *Navigating Early* (Vanderpool)
- *Notes from an Accidental Bank Geek* (Dionne)
- *Okay for Now* (Schmidt)
- *Paintings from the Cave: Three Novellas* (Paulsen)
- *Ruby Red* (Gier)
- *The Running Dream* (van Draanen)
- *A Tale Dark and Grimm* (Gidwitz)
- *Take Me to the River* (Hobbs)
- *Ungifted* (Korman)
- *When You Reach Me* (Stead)
- *Wish* (Monninger)

To prepare specifically for the study of memoir and personal narratives (ELA 7 and ELA 7 Honors), read texts such as these:

- *We Beat the Street*, by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt with Sharon Draper
- *The Warrior's Heart: Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage* by Eric Greitens
- *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jimenez
- *Boy: Tales of Childhood* by Roald Dahl
- *Guys Read: Funny Business* by Jon Scieszka
- *Bad Boy* by Walter Dean Myers
- *Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board* by Bethany Hamilton

To prepare for the study of expository writing (ELA 7 and ELA 7 Honors), read texts such as these:

- *Lincoln’s Grave Robbers* by Steve Sheinkin
- *How They Croaked!* by Georgia Bragg
- *Spies of Mississippi* by Rick Bowers
- *Every Bone Tells a Story* by Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw
- *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul: Teens Talk Middle School*, edited by Jack Canfield
- *Guts: The True Stories behind Hatchet and the Brian Books* by Gary Paulsen
- *An American Plague* by Jim Murphy

To prepare for the study of mythology (ELA 7 and ELA 7 Honors), focus on classical mythological tales from Greek, Norse, and Native American traditions and/or contemporary adaptations of mythologies, such as these:

- *Sea of Trolls* (trilogy) by Nancy Farmer
- *Quiver* by Stephanie Spinner
- *The Great God Pan* by Donna Jo Napoli
- *The Sword of Summer* by Rick Riordan
- *The Lost Sun* by Tessa Gratton

To prepare for the "Journeys and Passages" unit of study (ELA 7 and ELA 7 Honors), focus on hero-like characters who undertake both literal and figurative journeys, such as these:

- *One Came Home* by Amy Timberlake
- *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick
- *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech
- *A Soldier's Secret: The Incredible True Story of Sarah Edmonds* by Marissa Moss
- *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis
- *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata
- *The Nethergrim* by Matthew Jobin
- *It's a Wonderful Death* by Sarah Schmitt
- *The Boundless* by Kenneth Oppel
- *Boys in the Boat*, young readers adaptation (Brown)

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To prepare for the “Dramatically Speaking” unit of study (ELA 7 Honors only), focus on dramatic text structures by reading plays and books about theatre, such as these:

- *The Phantom Tollbooth* (play) by Norton Juster
- *The BFG: A Set of Plays* by Roald Dahl
- *Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays* by Joseph Bruchac
- *Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Federle
- *A Star is Born* by Walter Dean Myers
- *How to Stage a Catastrophe* by Rebecca Donnelly