

Seventh Grade Summer Reading

Part One

Read two of the following. Each of these books is set in America some time in the past; some of them are based on true stories. The choices are listed more or less in order of difficulty, with easier books at the top of the list and more difficult at the bottom. Try to look at different books to find two you will enjoy reading.

<i>The Great Brain</i>	John D. Fitzgerald
<i>Heaven to Betsy</i>	Maud Hart Lovelace
<i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>	Elizabeth George Speare
<i>Rifles for Watie</i>	Harold Keith
<i>April Morning</i>	Howard Fast
<i>Sarah Bishop</i>	Scott O'Dell
<i>Eight Cousins</i>	Louisa May Alcott
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	Betty Smith
<i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman</i>	Ernest J. Gaines
<i>Laddie</i>	Gene Stratton Porter
<i>The Killer Angels</i>	Michael Shaara
<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Mark Twain
<i>Arundel</i>	Kenneth Roberts
<i>Life on the Mississippi</i>	Mark Twain

Your book reports on these books will have two sections. In the first section, describe anything about the real history of the book's setting that can be observed from the book (you may write about major events going on in America or the world at the time, but if none are mentioned in the book, just write about how people dressed, interacted, entertained themselves, worked, or anything else you notice). **Do not do outside research. You need observations from the book about its time and place, even if they are minor and don't seem to be very important historically.** In the second, explain why you liked or did not like the book. Perhaps you liked some things and did not like others; if so, explain what you liked and what you didn't and why. In any case, **be specific and support your opinions** with examples from the book. Avoid generalizations such as saying the book was interesting or boring. If you think it was interesting, tell me what interested you; if you think it was boring, tell me what bored you.

Head the page with your name, the name of the book, and the author's name. **Do not summarize the plot.** Each report should be 200-500 words and be carefully written and proofread.

Part Two

Read a biography or autobiography of a person famous from events prior to 1900. Write a short report explaining why the subject of the biography is famous and whether, after reading the biography, you admire this person and why or why not. **Do not summarize his or her life. It is unlikely that biographical details such as date of birth are relevant to why the person is famous.**

Again, your name, the name of the book, and the author's name should be at the top of the page, and your report should be 200-500 words and carefully written and proofread.