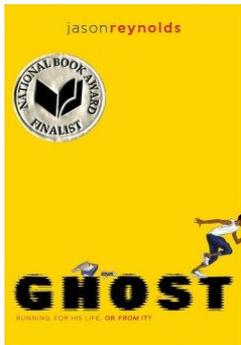


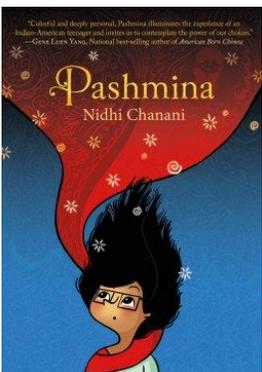
2018 Summer Reading List for Students Entering Grade 7

Directions: Every student entering the 7th grade in the fall must read one book from the following list. Choose a book that will both interest and challenge you. Make sure you fill out the notes form as you read. Be prepared to both discuss the book and write about it when you return in the fall.



***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds (sports)**

Castle "Ghost" Cranshaw has been running for three years, ever since the night his father shot a gun at him and his mother. When he gets recruited by a local track coach for a championship team, they strike a deal: if Ghost can stop getting into fights at school, he can run for the Defenders, but one altercation and he's gone. Despite Ghost's best intentions, everyone always has something to say about his raggedy shoes, homemade haircut, ratty clothes, or his neighborhood, and he doesn't last 24 hours without a brawl. Will Coach and his mom give him another chance to be part of something bigger than himself, or is he simply destined to explode? With his second fantastic middle-grade novel of the year (*As Brave as You*, 2016), the ferociously talented Reynolds perfectly captures both the pain and earnest longing of a young boy. The first in the four-book Track series, this is raw and lyrical, and as funny as it is heartbreaking. It tackles issues such as theft, bullying, and domestic violence with candor and bravery, while opening a door for empathy and discussion. An absolute must-read for anyone who has ever wondered how fast you must be to run away from yourself.



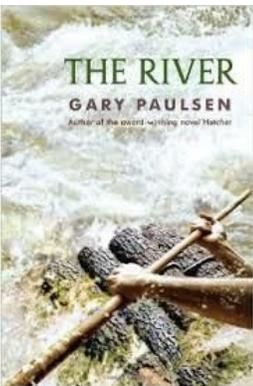
***Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani (mystery)**

Graphic Novel: Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? What was it like there? And most importantly, who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? But Pri's mom avoids these questions—the topic of India is permanently closed. For Pri, her mother's homeland can only exist in her imagination. That is, until she finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase. When she wraps herself in it, she is transported to a place more vivid and colorful than any guidebook or Bollywood film. But is this the real India? And what is that shadow lurking in the background? To learn the truth, Pri must travel farther than she's ever dared and find the family she never knew. In this heartwarming graphic novel debut, Nidhi Chanani weaves a tale about the hardship and self-discovery that is born from juggling two cultures and two worlds.



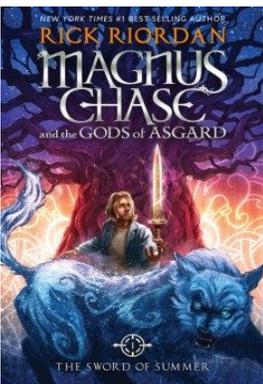
***Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead (realistic fiction)**

Starting seventh grade means lots of changes for Bridge and her best friends Em and Tabitha. The most obvious is Em's sudden curves, which grab the attention of pretty much everyone. Other changes are more subtle, like the way Bridge starts looking forward to seeing her classmate Sherman Russo, or Tabitha's growing interest in feminism and social justice. With diverging interests and gently simmering jealousies among the threesome, it would be easy for Stead to tell an all-too-familiar tale of a crumbling tween-girl trio. But she doesn't: rather, she offers a refreshing story of three girls whose loving friendship survives fights, accepts odd habits, and offers ample forgiveness. Unfolding over a series of vignettes that alternate among Bridge, an unnamed high-school girl worried about the consequences of her betrayal of a friend, and letters Sherm writes to his absent grandfather, Stead's latest gradually teases out the nuanced feelings and motivations that guide her characters' sometimes unwise-but never disastrous-actions. Bridge and her friends are all experiencing a quietly momentous shift toward adulthood, and Stead gracefully, frankly, and humorously captures that change. Though that change is often scary, Stead shows how strongly love of all kinds can smooth the juddering path toward adulthood. Winsome, bighearted, and altogether rewarding.



***The River* or *Brian's Winter* by Gary Paulsen (*Hatchet* Adventures)**

The River by Gary Paulsen is the sequel to award winning novel, *Hatchet*. In this novel, Brian Robeson returns to the wild, but this time he goes to a new location with a psychologist who works with a government program that teaches people to survive in situations similar to the one Brian experienced after a plane crash left him stranded in the wild. However, this trip is planned and seems too easy to Brian until a freak lightning storm turns the trip into a life or death struggle. *Brian's Winter* asks "What if Brian hadn't been rescued and had to face his deadliest enemy yet--winter?"



***The Sword of Summer: Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* by Rick Riordan (and sequels *The Hammer of Thor* & *The Ship of the Dead*) (fantasy)**

Living on the streets of Boston after the death of his mother, Magnus is told by a mysterious stranger that he is the son of a Norse god and must track down a lost ancient sword to stop a war being waged by mythical monsters, in the first book of a new series by the internationally best-selling author of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, the *Kane Chronicles*, and the *Heroes of Olympus* series.

- Book Descriptions from Publishers and Follett Titlepeek