

2020 SEVENTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

REQUIRED SUMMER READING:

THE FAMILY ROMANOV by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books; ISBN 978-0-375-86782-8)

THE FAMILY ROMANOV is set in St. Petersburg, Russia and follows the last tsarist family during the turbulent first years of the 20th century. This will lead us directly into the fall trimester when we begin by studying the Bolshevik Revolution and the rise of Stalinism.

In Humanities, one of our goals is to identify many perspectives of history and to make the established narrative more human and less simplistic. In other words, knowing why a story is being told is as important as knowing what the story is about. Please keep the following Essential Questions in mind as you read this book. In the first few days of school, we will review these questions and then give you a chance to creatively express what you've learned. If you choose to read this text early on in the summer, make sure you review it in the days before Wednesday, September 2nd (first day of school).

Essential Questions for **THE FAMILY ROMANOV**:

- What was daily life like for Tsar Nicholas and his family? What was life like for the peasants?
- What key events and conditions led the Russians to revolt?
- What were the goals of the revolutionaries?
- How did life change after the revolution?
- What other historical examples are comparable to the Russian Revolution?
- How might this era in Russian history inform us about autocratic rule?

STUDENT CHOICE SUMMER READING: (please select at least one book from this list):

**indicates a book that compliments the 7th grade Global Studies curriculum*

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND and **THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS**

by Lewis Carroll

Wonderland says it all. This pair of absolutely enchanting tales will leave you with a smile broader than the Cheshire Cat's.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES by Lucy Maude Montgomery and the rest of the Anne series set at the turn of the century on a small island in Canada, Anne is a vivacious, imaginative orphan adopted by an aging couple. Anne causes trouble where ever she goes but also brightens everyone's lives.

BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS by Dai Sijie

The story of two young men ordered to the countryside for reeducation during China's Cultural Revolution whose gifts for storytelling lead them to discover more about themselves and the village.

BAMBOO PEOPLE by Mitali Perkins

When 15-year-old Chiko, forced into military service in Burma, is wounded in battle, he finds himself at the

mercy of Tu Reh. Will these two teens, who should be natural enemies, find a way to friendship?

THE BERLIN BOXING CLUB by Robert Sharenow
Karl Stern has never thought of himself as a Jew; after all, he's never even been in a synagogue. But the bullies at his school in Nazi-era Berlin don't care that Karl's family doesn't practice religion. Demoralized by their attacks against a heritage he doesn't accept as his own, Karl longs to prove his worth.

***BINDI BABES** by Narinder Dhani

Three sisters enjoy a life of no adult supervision and everything they want from their widowed father, but then face adjusting to their Auntie's arrival from India.

***THE BREADWINNER** by Deborah Ellis

Part of a trilogy (with *Parvana's Journey* and *Mud City*) set in the early years of the Taliban regime, these novels explore the harsh realities of life for girls and women in modern-day Afghanistan.

***BROKEN MEMORY** by Élisabeth Combres
Emma witnesses the brutal murder of her mother during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and tries to build a life while haunted by the experience.

BUTTERFLY YELLOW by Thanhha Lai
It's 1981, and Hang has taken a perilous journey by fishing boat from Vietnam to Amarillo, Texas, to find her little brother, Linh. Her arrival is not as welcome as she had hoped, since Linh appears to have forgotten her.

THE CALL OF THE WILD by Jack London
The dog hero, Buck, is stolen from his comfortable home and pressed into service as a sled dog in the Klondike during the Alaskan gold rush. He is abused until rescued by a master whom he can love.

DESTINATION UNEXPECTED: SHORT STORIES edited by Donald R. Gallo
Ten stories by well-known young adult authors about "journeys of discovery" to places both near and far: Cape Cod, summer camp, the racetrack, the local diner.

THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC by Jane Yolen
During a Passover Seder, 12-year-old Hannah finds herself transported to Poland in 1942, where the Nazis send her to a concentration camp.

DICEY'S SONG by Cynthia Voight
After her mother abandons the family, the oldest daughter brings her siblings to live with the grandmother they have never met. Also by Voight, *Homecoming*.

FINNIKIN OF THE ROCK by Melina Marcheta
Finnikin and his fellow exiles from Lumaieere embark on an epic journey to return to their cursed homeland in this first book of a series.

FINDING NOUF by Zoe Ferraris
After a 16-year-old girl from a wealthy Saudi family is found dead in the middle of the desert, a devout Muslim guide and a young medical examiner seek to unravel the mystery while facing the sanctions of Middle Eastern society.

FLUTIE by Diane Glancy
Flutie is a young Native American whose life is transformed after she reads the myth of Philomela.

FLYING LESSONS AND OTHER STORIES by Ellen Oh (Editor), Sherman Alexie, Jacqueline Woodson, Kwame

Alexander, Walter Dean Myers, Meg Medina, Tim Tingle, Kelly J. Baptist, Soman Chainani, Matt de la Pena, Tim Gederle, Grace Lin
Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this bold anthology—written by the best children's authors—celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.

FORGE by Laurie Halse Anderson
All that stands between Curzon and his freedom is George Washington's army and a winter at Valley Forge. Historical fiction by the author of *Speak*.

THE GARDEN by Aidinoff
What really happened in the Garden of Eden? What lies outside its borders? An imaginative and gripping retelling of the Genesis story from Eve's point of view.

GIFTS by Ursula K. LeGuin
This coming of age allegory, set in a community where long-standing rivalries are driven by clans' inherited, extrasensory gifts, combines earth magic with universal themes of young people testing boundaries and questioning tradition.

HALF BROTHER by Kenneth Oppel
Ben was an only child for thirteen years—but all that changed when his mother brought home an eight-day old chimpanzee.

HATCHET by Gary Paulsen
After a plane crashes, 13-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the hatchet his mother had given him. Don't miss the sequel: *Brian's Hunt*.

THE HEN WHO DREAMED SHE COULD FLY by Sun-Mi Hwang
Translated from Korean, this story explores ideals of compassion, individuality, sacrifice, and motherhood—all through a crew of barnyard animals.

THE HERO AND THE CROWN by Robin McKinley
An adventure/romance in which Aerin, daughter of a Damarian king and his witch wife, leaves home to become first a dragon killer and eventually the savior of her kingdom.

THE HOBBIT by J.R.R. Tolkien

One of the greatest of all fantasies, the hobbit Bilbo Baggins is plunged into a conflict between good and evil in the fascinating world of Middle Earth.

HOOPS by Walter Dean Myers

Growing up in the streets of Harlem, talented athlete Lonnie Jackson sees basketball as a way out of the ghetto.

HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle or any in the Sherlock Holmes Series
Detective Holmes and Dr. Watson solve the most blood-curdling case of their careers, which involves a family curse, strange killings and a terrifying beast. Also by Doyle, *The Lost World*.

I AM THE CHEESE by Robert Cormier

Told through a series of therapy sessions and memories of a long-distance bicycle trip, this suspense story focuses on a boy and his family living under the witness protection program of a government agency.

JACOB HAVE I LOVED by Katherine Patterson

On a small Chesapeake Bay island, Louise is denied the opportunity to fulfill her hopes while everyone caters to her twin sister. The advent of the war gives Louise a chance to work along with her father and to prove herself.

JENNY OF THE TETONS by Kristiana Gregory

In this easy-to-read historical novel, Carrie hates the Shoshoni Indians for killing her parents and stealing her brothers. But when she is taken in by an Englishman, Carrie learns the gentle ways of his Shoshoni wife.

KIRA-KIRA by Cynthia Kadohata

This book chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late '50s, and the despair they feel when one sister becomes terminally ill.

LEVIATHAN by Scott Westerfield

An alternate history of World War I pitting the "Clankers" steam-driven war machines against the Darwinists' fabricated animal weapons. Alek, the son of a prince, and Deryn, a girl disguised as a boy, join forces to survive in this adventure.

THE LIONS OF LITTLE ROCK by Karen Levine

During the school desegregation battles of 1958, 13-year-

olds Marlee and Lizzie become friends, leading to standoffs with classmates, family, and officials.

***NO TIGERS IN AFRICA** by Norman Silver

Teenager Selwyn Lewis emigrates from South Africa to England with his family. He hopes to escape his guilty past, but is unable to settle or make friends because of his rigid, white South African attitudes.

MATCHED by Ally Condie

In a perfect society, Cassia has never had a choice. The Society dictates everything, including, as she turns 17, who to marry. When she is matched with her best friend Xander, things couldn't be more perfect. But why did her neighbor Ky's face show up on her match disk as well?

THE MAZE RUNNER by James Dashner

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

MONSTER by Walter Dean Myers

This New York Times bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.

ONE CRAZY SUMMER by Rita Williams-Garcia

Set during the summer of 1968 and the growth of the Black Power movement, this novel about three girls meeting the mother they never knew shows the subtle ways that political movements affect personal lives.

PATRON SAINTS OF NOTHING by Randy Ribay

After Jay, a Filipino American high school senior gets word that his once-close cousin and pen pal Jun is dead, he travels to the Philippines to uncover the truth.

A PLACE APART by Paula Fox

Shortly after her father's death, Victoria and her mother move to a small village outside of Boston where she meets a wealthy teenage boy who teaches her a valuable but painful lesson about life.

REDWALL by Brian Jacques

As the inhabitants of Redwall Abbey bask in the glorious summer of the Late Rose, all is quiet and peaceful. But Cluny the Scourge, the evil one-eyed rat warlord, is bent on destroying the calm as he prepares to fight a bloody battle for the ownership of Redwall.

THE RETURN by Sonia Leviton

A fictional account of a true event: the secret rescue of 8000 Ethiopian Jews from their mountain homes. Two sisters endure hardship and danger to reach a new land.

A RING OF ENDLESS LIGHT

by Madeleine L'Engle

Vicky Austin must face her grandfather's terminal cancer and a friend's death. With the help of a young biologist, she discovers she has telepathic powers and can communicate with dolphins.

***THE ROLLER BIRDS OF RAMPUR** by Indi Rana

The story of Sheila's return from England to her family home in India to find herself, the book offers a tantalizing glimpse into the culture of India, its foods, caste system, politics, and even language.

THE RIDDLE OF THE PENNCROFT FARM

by Dorthea Jensen

Lars Olafson moves with his parents to the old family farm near Valley Forge, PA, where he meets a ghost who tells exciting stories of the Revolutionary War.

SHANE by Jack Schaeffer

In Wyoming in 1889, Shane works as a hired hand for the Starrett family, who grow to love him, unaware that he is a gunfighter escaping his past.

SHIP BREAKER by Paolo Bacigalupi

On an environmentally ravaged coast, Nailer makes a meager living as a scavenger tearing up old hulls of ships—until a wealthy girl and her gleaming ship run aground during a storm...

SILVER by Norma Fox Mazer

Four 13-year-old girls become good friends sharing painful secrets and joyful triumphs despite differing social and economic backgrounds.

SLAY by Brittney Morris

Kiera is a 17-year-old Black gamer who, in response to a gaming industry that often excludes marginalized individuals, built an RPG that celebrates all things "black

excellence." Her identity is a secret in the real world, until a troll infiltrates the game to destroy it.

SONGS OF THE KINGS by Barry Unsworth

A vivid retelling of the origins of the Trojan War set in the mythic world of Achilles, Odysseus, Agamemnon and Iphigenia.

SOUNDER by William Armstrong

Set in the era of sharecropping and segregation in the rural south, this book describes the determination of a boy searching for his father, imprisoned for stealing a ham, and the devotion of his dog Sounder.

SPINDLE'S END by Robin McKinley

All the creatures of the forest knew the infant was special. She was the princess, spirited away from the evil fairy Pernicia on her name-day. But the curse was cast...!

STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

by Robert Heinlein

Valentine Michael Smith, a man from Mars, teaches humankind "grokking" and water sharing and love.

A SUMMER TO DIE by Lois Lowry

Meg envies her older sister's popularity and prettiness until Molly is stricken with a fatal illness. Also, *The Giver* and other titles by Lowry.

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

by Agatha Christie

The author's most famous mystery tale, in which strangers find themselves on a desert island where they are being killed off, one by one.

TASTING THE SKY by Ibtisam Barakat

When the 1967 Six-Day War begins, Ibtisam flees Ramallah with her family. This memoir recalls her childhood experiences as Palestinian refugee.

UNDER THE MESQUITE by Guadalupe McCall

Lupita's world is shifting, bringing big changes for her tightknit Mexican-American family in this verse novel.

WALKABOUT by James Vance Marshall

13-year-old Mary and her 8-year-old brother are stranded in the Australian outback after a plane crash when they are rescued by a young Aborigine.

WAR GIRLS by Tochi Onyebuchi

The year 2172 has not brought peace to war-torn Nigeria and Biafra. Onyii is both a fierce warrior on behalf of the Biafrans and a tender soul whose adopted sister, Ify is Nigerian. Their relationship is strained when Ify is returned to her Nigerian home to be weaponized against the Biafrans.

WATERSHIP DOWN by Richard Adams

Faced with annihilation, a small group of rabbits set out in search of a new home. Internal struggles for power and enemy attacks from without make this an exciting, realistic adventure.

THE WEIGHT OF OUR SKY by Hanna Alkaf

When a race riot between the Malays and Chinese breaks out in 1969 Malaysia, Melati—who is Malay—must survive while overcoming her OCD and searching for her mother. She is aided by a Chinese family, forming a bond with them and, particularly, their teenage son Vince.

WHEN THE EMPEROR WAS DIVINE

by Julie Otsuka

Inspired by her own family's history during World War II, Otsuka illuminates a woman and her children's experiences in a Japanese-American internment camp.

WONDERSTRUCK by Brian Selznick

Alternating between dramatic story and stunning pictures, Wonderstruck chronicles the journeys of Ben and Rose, fifty years apart, searching for the missing pieces to their surprisingly connected lives.

YEAR OF WONDERS by Geraldine Brooks

A year after the plague strikes her village, Anna reflects on how the townsfolk handled their minister's request to remain in town to prevent the illness from spreading.

NON-FICTION:

ALEX & ME by Irene M. Pepperberg

The remarkable story of the emotional bond between the author and her African Grey parrot, Alex. Alex could add, he understood concepts, and each day he said to Irene, "I love you."

THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND

by William Kamkwamba

The story of a young boy in Malawi, his dream of building a windmill, and his success. An inspiring story of

imagination and determination.

A DREAM OF FREEDOM: THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FROM 1954 TO 1968

by Diane McWhorter

Based on the author's Pulitzer-prize winning history, Carry Me Home, this is a history of the movement for younger readers.

ESCAPE! THE STORY OF THE GREAT HOUDINI by Sid Fleischman

Drawing on his own experiences as a magician, the author examines the man behind the myth.

FORENSIC SCIENCE AT WORK by Jay Siegel

Citing real-life cases, forensics expert Jay Siegel reveals the complexities behind forensics, especially in the areas of drugs, trace evidence, and crime scene investigation.

THE IMPOSSIBLE RESCUE: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMAZING ARCTIC ADVENTURE

by Martin Sandler

Sandler offers another dramatic tale of Arctic disaster and near superhuman endurance set near the locale of his previous Trapped in Ice! An Amazing True Whaling Adventure (2006).

ROCKET BOYS by Homer Hickam

This memoir by a NASA scientist was the basis for the movie October Sky: an inspiring story of hard work and a dream come true.

THE VOICE THAT CHALLENGED A NATION

by Russell Freedman.

A photo biography of Marian Anderson that begins with the legendary moment when Eleanor Roosevelt invites her to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

WHEELS OF CHANGE: HOW WOMEN RODE THE BICYCLE TO FREEDOM by Sue Macy

An engaging look at the emancipating impact that bikes had on late-nineteenth-century U.S. women which includes archival images and quotes of the era.