

**FRIENDS ACADEMY**  
**2017 Middle School Summer Reading List**  
**for students entering**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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**CHALLENGE ONE**

**Students entering seventh grade are required to read the following title:**

*I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (young reader's edition)* by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick

In this young reader's edition of Yousafzai's best-selling memoir, the Nobel Peace Prize winner retells her experiences at home and at school and discusses the impact of the Taliban presence in Pakistan. Her strong voice and ideals come across on every page, emphasizing how her surroundings and supportive family helped her become the relevant figure she is today. Yousafzai highlights the importance of school and how it was the only space where she felt empowered. Although at times the transitions between personal accounts and historical background feel abrupt, Yousafzai effectively summarizes her story and her advocacy for girls' education, peace, and human rights. Above all, she stresses that she doesn't want to be known as the girl shot by the Taliban but rather as a young person who actively fought for education.

**CHALLENGE TWO**

**In addition to Challenge One, students entering seventh grade are required to read any two of the following books:**

- Budhos, Marina Tamar. *Ask Me No Questions*. Realistic Fiction  
2007 winner James Cook Award for diversity in YA literature  
Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

- *Stead, Rebecca. Liar & Spy.* Mystery  
 2012 Agatha Award Nominee for YA Mystery  
 When seventh grader Georges (the S is silent) moves into a Brooklyn apartment building, he meets Safer, a twelve-year-old coffee-drinking loner and self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: how far is too far to go for your only friend?
- *Card, Orson Scott. Ender's Game.* Science Fiction  
 Winner of Nebula Award for Science Fiction and Hugo Award for Fantasy  
 In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut--young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Will Ender be up to the task?
- *Choldenko, Gennifer. Al Capone Does My Shirts.* Historic Fiction  
 2005 Newbery Honor Book.  
 In 1935, Moose Flanagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his father can work as a prison guard and his autistic sister can attend a special school in San Francisco. Moose befriends the warden's daughter and learns to cope with his awkward situation.
- *Graff, Lisa. Lost in the Sun.* Realistic Fiction  
 National Book Award Nominated Author  
 Everyone says that middle school is awful, but Trent knows nothing could be worse than the year he had in fifth grade, when a freak accident on Cedar Lake left one kid dead, and Trent with a brain full of terrible thoughts he can't get rid of. Trent's pretty positive the entire disaster was his fault, so for him middle school feels like a fresh start, a chance to prove to everyone that he's not the horrible screw-up they seem to think he is.
- *Lai, Thanhà. Listen, Slowly.* Realistic Fiction  
*New York Times Book Review* Notable Book and a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year  
 A California girl born and raised, Mai can't wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, she has to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is going back to find out what really happened to her husband during the Vietnam War. Mai's parents think this trip will be a great opportunity for their out-of-touch daughter to learn more about her culture. But to Mai, those are *their* roots, not her own. Vietnam is hot, smelly, and the last place she wants to be. Besides barely speaking the language, she doesn't know the geography, the local

customs, or even her distant relatives. To survive her trip, Mai must find a balance between her two completely different worlds.

- LeGrand, Eric. *Believe*. Biography (Sports)  
*Believe* is the profoundly moving story of Eric LeGrand, the former defensive tackle for the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights football team, who suffered a severe spinal cord injury and was left paralyzed by a crushing on-field tackle during a heated game with Army. A remarkable true account of a courageous young athlete whose unshakable faith, spirit, positive outlook, and rousing motto, “BELIEVE!” would serve as inspiration to legions of fans—and as motivation in his own quest to walk again.
- Reynolds, Jason. *Ghost*. Sports  
2017 Odyssey Award for best audio book for children  
Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?
- Park Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. Historic Fiction  
2002 Newbery Medal Winner  
Tree-ear, an orphan, lives under a bridge in a potters' village famed for delicate celadon vases. He has become fascinated with the potter's craft; he wants nothing more than to watch master potter Min at work, and he dreams of making a pot of his own someday. When Min takes Tree-ear on as his helper, Tree-ear is elated—until he finds obstacles in his path: the backbreaking labor of digging and hauling clay, Min's irascible temper, and his own ignorance. But Tree-ear is determined to prove himself—even if it means taking a long, solitary journey on foot to present Min's work in the hope of a royal commission . . . even if it means arriving at the royal court with nothing to show but a single celadon shard.
- Schmidt, Gary. *Wednesday Wars*. Historic Fiction  
2008 Newbery Honor Award  
In this Newbery Honor-winning novel, Gary D. Schmidt offers an unforgettable antihero. *The Wednesday Wars* is a wonderfully witty and compelling story about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967–68 school year in Long Island, New York.

- Sperry, Armstrong. *Call it Courage*. Classic  
1941 Newbery Medal Winner  
Mafatu's name means "Stout Heart," but his people call him a coward. Ever since the sea took his mother's life and spared his own, he has lived with deep fear. And even though his father is the Great Chief of Hikueru--an island whose seafaring people worship courage--he is terrified, and consequently, he is severely scorned. By the time he is twelve years old, Mafatu can bear it no longer. He must conquer his fear alone. . . even if it means certain death.
- Van Draanen , Wendelin. *Flipped* Realistic fiction  
With a charming leading lady, this compelling dynamic between two narrators centers on a "he said, She said" romance. The first time Juli Baker saw Bryce Loski, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. Not much changes until eighth grade when Juli's infatuation wanes and Bryce's begins.

Students may also choose any of these titles from Stuart Gibb's *FunJungle* series, John Feinstein's sports mystery series, or Scott Westerfeld's *Uglies* series.

- Gibbs, Stuart. *FunJungle* Mystery  
When Teddy Fitzroy moved into FunJungle, the nation's largest zoo, with his scientist parents, he expected things to be kind of quiet. There'd be the occasional elephant stampede and water balloon fight with the chimpanzees, of course, but when Henry the Hippo dies from not-so-natural causes, Teddy suspects foul play. And that was just the beginning. He begins to realize that the zoo is far more exciting than he thought it was, and soon the mysteries at FunJungle are piling up...
  - *Belly Up*, Book 1
  - *Poached*, Book 2
  - *Big Game*, Book 3
- Feinstein, John. Sports mysteries series Mystery (Sports)  
In John Feinstein's series, sports and mystery are intertwined. Follow reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson as they go behind the scenes and cover stories about baseball, football, basketball, tennis and swimming.
  - *Change Up: Mystery at the World Series*
  - *Cover Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl*
  - *Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*
  - *The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game*
  - *Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open*

Westerfeld, Scott. *Uglies* series

Science Fiction

Tally can't wait to turn 16, but in her world, turning 16 means undergoing an operation to turn your unattractive characteristics into gorgeous ones. Is life truly better as a Pretty? And what about as a Special? Find out by reading this series and see if Tally is truly happy with her new beauty.

- o *Extras*
- o *Pretties*
- o *Specials*
- o *Uglies*