Dear Rising Seventh Grader,

We have compiled a list of special books in a variety of categories for your summer reading pleasure. In addition to your two (2) required titles, please choose any two (2) books from the list, and follow the instructions provided by Ms. Zappas' letter and on Haiku. You can choose ANY of the books on this list in whichever order you like! The list is broken down into sections for ease. Please explore and enjoy!

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

**I AM PRINCESS X**
BY CHERIE PRIEST (2016)

Once upon a time, best friends created a princess. Libby drew the pictures; May wrote the tales, and their heroine, Princess X, slayed dragons and scaled mountains their imaginations could conjure. When Libby dies in an accident, Princess X dies with her and May is alone... that is until she discovers an underground culture, focused around a webcomic at IAmPrincessX.com and only one person could have started this phenomenon -- her best friend, Libby, who lives.

**NEVER NEVER**
BY BRIANNA R. SHRUM (2015)

James Hook is a child who only wants to grow up. When he meets Peter Pan, a boy who wishes to never becoming a man, James joins Peter Pan on a holiday to Neverland, a place of adventure created by children’s dreams, but Neverland is not for the faint of heart. Soon James finds himself longing for home, determined that he is destined to be a man. But Peter refuses to take him back, leaving James trapped in a world where children are to never grow up.

**I AM MALALA (YOUNG READERS EDITION)**
BY MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Malala Yousafzai describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

**FREE TO FALL**
BY LAUREN MILLER

In a near-future world where everyone is controlled by their smartphones, 16-year-old Rory Vaughn suddenly begins listening to the voice within— which kids are taught to ignore— and discovers a terrible plot at the heart of the corporation that makes the devices.

**SHE IS NOT INVISIBLE**
BY MARCUS SEDGWICK

A London teenager, who is blind, and her younger brother travel to New York to find their missing father, using clues from his notebook.

**WE WERE LIARS**
BY E. LOCKHART

Spending the summers on her family’s private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

**THE BITTER SIDE OF SWEET**
BY TARA SULLIVAN

Kept as forced labor on a chocolate plantation in the Ivory Coast, Amadou and his younger brother Seydou had given up hope, until a young girl arrives at the camp who rekindles the urge to escape.

**BREAKFAST SERVED ANYTIME**
BY SARAH COMBS

Gloria decides to attend a summer camp for gifted students before her senior year of high school and finds herself dealing with the loss of her grandmother, a mysterious professor, and obnoxious fellow campers.
**EVERY DAY**
**BY DAVID LEVITHAN**

Every morning A wakes in a different person’s body, in a different person’s life, learning over the years to never get too attached, until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin’s girlfriend, Rhiannon.

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**A MAD, WICKED FOLLY**
**BY SHARON BIGGS**

In 1909 London, as the world of debutante balls and high society obligations closes in around her, 17-year-old Victoria must figure out just how much she must sacrifice to pursue her dream of becoming an artist.

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**NOT YOUR SIDEKICK**
**BY C.B. LEE (2016)**

Welcome to Andover... where superpowers are common, but internships are complicated. Despite her heroic lineage, Jess is resigned to a life without superpowers and is merely looking to beef up her college applications when she stumbles upon the perfect (paid!) internship—only it turns out to be for the town’s most heinous supervillain. But what starts as a fun way to spite her superhero parents takes a sudden and dangerous turn when she uncovers a plot larger than heroes and villains altogether.

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**AKATA WITCH SERIES**
**BY NNEDI OKORAFOR (2011)**

Born in New York, but living in Aba, Nigeria, 12-year-old Sunny is a little lost. She is albino and thus, incredibly sensitive to the sun. Once she befriends Orlu and Chichi, Sunny is plunged in to the world of the Leopard People, where your worst defect becomes your greatest asset. Their mission is to track down Black Hat Otokoto, the man responsible for kidnapping and maiming children. Will Sunny be able to overcome the killer with powers stronger than her own, or will the future she saw in the flames become reality?

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**BRAZEN**
**BY CHRISTINA FARLEY (2015)**

Jae Hwa Lee spent her 16th year in Seoul, trying to destroy the evil immortals that had been torturing her family for centuries. The last thing she expected was to be forced to become their assassin. Trapped in the darkest part of the Spirit World as a servant to the Korean god Kud, fighting to keep her humanity, and unable to contact her loved ones, Jae Hwa is slowly losing hope. There’s much to lose as Jae struggles to save the land she’s come to call home.

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**SHADOW FALLS SERIES**
**BY C.C. HUNTER (2013)**

One night, Kylie Galen finds herself at the wrong party, with the wrong people. Her mother ships her off to Shadow Falls—a camp for troubled teens, and within hours of arriving, it becomes painfully clear that her fellow campers aren’t just “troubled.” Here at Shadow Falls, vampires, werewolves, shapeshifters, witches and fairies train side-by-side, learning to harness their powers and live in the normal world. Kylie’s never felt normal, but does she belong here with a bunch of paranormal freaks?

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**GOODBYE STRANGER**
**BY REBECCA STEAD (2015)**

Bridge is an accident survivor who’s wondering why she’s still alive. Emily has new curves and an almost-boyfriend who wants a certain kind of picture. Tabitha sees through everybody’s games—or so she tells the world. The three girls are best friends with one rule: No fighting. Can it get them through seventh grade? On Valentine’s Day, an unnamed high school girl struggles with a betrayal. How long can she hide in plain sight? Each memorable character navigates the challenges of love and change in this captivating novel.

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**STICKS AND STONES**
**BY ABBY COOPER (2016)**

Now that Elyse is 12, it’s not just the words that other people say about her that appear on her skin, but also her own self talk. The words stay about two weeks and the negative words itch badly. Because there are a lot of negative words right now ever since her best friend’s ditched her. Anonymous notes encourage Elyse to try new things, and grow out of her comfort zone. She does and is surprised with the positive results including self-acceptance.
**BE LIGHT LIKE A BIRD**  
BY MONIKA SCHRODER (2016)  
This beautiful story so compelling. Wren, a lonely girl who, after her father was killed in a plane crash, can’t seem to find her place in the world. Her mother keeps them moving and refuses to talk about her father. Now, Wren hopes to stay in their latest small town location where she and a classmate champion against a meaningful nature spot from being destroyed. It’s a story of grief, redemption, forgiveness, and ultimately, hope, and is one that will stay with you.

**THE FOG DIVER**  
BY JOEL ROSS (2015)  
Once the Fog started rising, the earth was covered with a deadly white mist until nothing remained but the mountaintops. Now humanity clings to its highest peaks, called the Rooftop, where the wealthy Five Families rule over the lower slopes and floating junkyards. 13-year-old Chess and his friends sail their rickety air raft over the deadly Fog, scavenging the ruins for anything they can sell to survive. Now Chess will face any danger to protect his friends, even if it means confronting what he fears the most.

**CLASSIC**

**ELSEWHERE**  
BY GABRIELLE ZEVIN  
After 15-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."  

**LAST SUMMER WITH MAIZON**  
BY JACQUELINE WOODSON  
11-year-old Margaret tries to accept the inevitable changes that come one summer when her father dies and her best friend Maizon goes away to a private boarding school.

**ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL**  
BY JAMES HERRIOT  
Presents the first-hand account of a young English veterinarian starting his career in the Yorkshires nearly forty years ago.

**SPEAK**  
BY LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON  
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda’s freshman year in high school.

**KIKI STRIKE SERIES**  
BY KIRSTEN MILLER  
Life will never be the same for Ananka Fishbein after she ventures into an enormous sinkhole near her New York City apartment. A million rats, delinquent Girl Scouts out for revenge, and a secret city below the streets of Manhattan combine in this remarkable novel about a darker side of New York City you have only just begun to know about...

**THE RUBY AND THE SMOKE**  
BY PHILIP PULLMAN  
In nineteenth century London, 16-year-old Sally, a recent orphan, becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby.
**The Yearling**

By Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Young Jody adopts an orphaned fawn he calls Flag and makes it a part of his family and his best friend. But life in the Florida backwoods is harsh, and so, as his family fights off wolves, bears, and even alligators, and faces failure in their tenuous subsistence farming, Jody must finally part with his dear animal friend. There has been a film and even a musical based on this story.

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**Freak**

By Marcella Pixley

For Miriam Fisher, a budding poet who reads the Oxford English Dictionary for fun, seventh grade is a year etched in her memory "clear as pain." That's the year her older sister, Deborah, once her best buddy and fellow "alien," bloomed like a beautiful flower and joined the high school in-crowd. Miriam is an unforgettable heroine, an outsider who dares to confront the rigid conformity of junior high, and in the process manages not only to save herself but to inspire and transform others.

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**Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two**

By Joseph Bruchac

Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians.

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**The Time Machine**

By H.G. Wells

“I’ve had a most amazing time....” So begins the Time Traveller’s astonishing firsthand account of his journey 800,000 years beyond his own era—this brave explorer is sent to face a future burdened with our greatest hopes...and our darkest fears. A pull of the Time Machine’s lever propels him to the age of a slowly dying Earth. There he discovers two bizarre races—the ethereal Eloi and the subterranean Morlocks—who not only symbolize the duality of human nature, but offer a terrifying portrait of the men of tomorrow as well.

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**Walkabout**

By James Vance Marshall

A plane crashes in the vast Northern Territory of Australia, and the only survivors are two children from Charleston, South Carolina, on their way to visit their uncle in Adelaide. Mary and her younger brother Peter set out on foot, lost in the vast, hot Australian outback. They are saved by a chance meeting with an Aboriginal boy on walkabout, who teaches them to find food and water in the wilderness, but whom Mary can’t bring herself to trust.

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**Koyal Dark, Mango Sweet**

By Kashmira Sheth

A story set in contemporary Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India, is about 16-year-old Jeeta, whose outspoken, independent nature often makes for a prickly relationship with her traditional mother, who has been devoting herself to finding husbands for Jeeta’s two older sisters. Jeeta believes a woman’s worth is intrinsic and not based on her status as a wife. Then Jeeta’s sister Mohini reveals that her marriage is a nightmare of abuse, but she fears leaving her husband and bringing shame upon herself and her family. Does Jeeta’s fear for her sister far outweigh her fear of violating traditional values?