

7th Grade Reading List 2023



Comrie, Courtney. **Rain Rising**, 2022. JFIC

Written in verse, this novel follows Rain on her journey of self-healing, as she is depressed and self-conscious. Her family is also healing after her brother was brutally attacked in a racially-motivated violent act.



Conklin, Melanie. **A Perfect Mistake**, 2022. JFIC

Max is struggling to start his new school year due to his ADHD and the fact that one of his best friends, Will, is in a coma from a recent accident and his other best friend, Joey, will not talk to him. Max decides to launch a mini-investigation to figure out what happened to Joey, but he runs into trouble along the way as some people don't want him to find out.



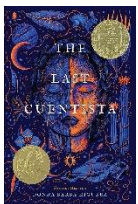
Fipps, Lisa. **Starfish**, 2021. JFIC

Ellie is an 11-year-old girl starting middle school and is self-conscious because she is constantly getting body shamed by her peers as well as her mother. Ellie learns to navigate middle school by understanding how to confidently love herself and be herself around others.



Giles, Chrystal D. **Not an Easy Win**, 2023. JFIC

Lawrence and his family move to North Carolina after he gets into one too many fights. In his new town, Lawrence decides to spend his time at a local rec center and afterschool program where his neighbor runs a chess program. Through the program, Lawrence learns to play chess, master his emotions, and make new friends along the way.



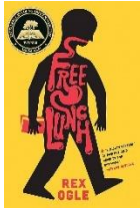
Higuera, Donna B. **The Last Cuentista**, 2021. JFIC

Petra, a 12-year-old soon to be 13, and her family are chosen to board a ship that will preserve their bodies and take them to another planet when it's discovered that a world-ending comet is approaching. Petra must escape the ship due to an evil collective trying to take control of everyone on board.



Ogle, Rex, & Valeza, Dave. **Four Eyes**, 2023. JGN

Rex is starting school again, but he realizes that he is having difficulty seeing in class, which affects his grades. Rex then gets new glasses, but his peers start to make fun of him and single him out. Rex has to navigate the school year with his new glasses, a lack of friends, and a family who does not understand his struggles.



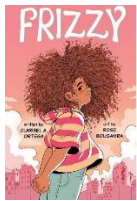
Ogle, Rex. **Free Lunch**, 2019. JNF 362.7092 Og35f

This true story follows Rex during his first semester in middle school while he is struggling with issues at home such as low-income, homelessness, and abuse.



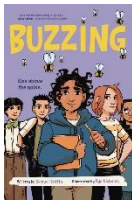
O'Neill Kay. **The Moth Keeper**, 2023. JGN

Anya is used to being alone, so that is why she decided to become the moth keeper, who tracks the Lunar moths at night. An important task, since the moths help the light lily flower bloom once a year, which keeps the village thriving. However, as Anya is desperate to prove her worth and deal with something from her past, she begins to question everything.



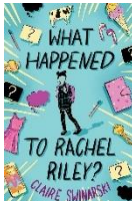
Ortega, Claribel. **Frizzy**, 2022. JGN

Marlene comes from a Spanish culture, and has thick, frizzy, curly, unruly hair. She has a hard time fitting in at school, and an even harder time with her family as they make her feel that she does not have “good hair” like others in the family. She then goes on a journey to learn to manage her hair, confidently love her hair, and help her family learn to love it too.



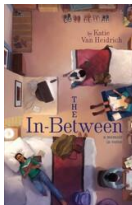
Sattin, Samuel. **Buzzing**, 2023. JGN

Isaac has OCD, and it impacts his daily life. He struggles with keeping up in school, his friendships, and family relationships. Isaac is trying to learn how to cope with everything as it negatively effects his self-esteem and has a hard time dealing with and communicating those feelings.



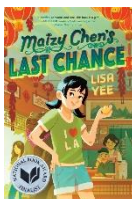
Swinarski, Claire. **What Happened to Rachel Riley?** 2023. JFIC

Anna is the new kid at school and must create a social project for her class that is anything but an essay. Anna, despite pushback from her teacher and peers, decides to find out what happened to her classmate Rachel Riley and why she's been suddenly rejected by her peers. However, this turns out to be difficult when no one wants her to find out the truth.



Van Heidrich, Katie. **The In-Between**, 2023. JNF 305.235 V217i

Katie is used to moving around her whole life, bouncing from place to place with her mother and her siblings. Her mother has a hard time keeping jobs, while her newly-married father lives a comfortable life. Katie feels stuck in between, where one minute she is homeless with her mother and the next minute she is comfortable with her father.



Yee, Lisa. **Maizy Chen's Last Chance**, 2022. JFIC

Maizy and her mother temporarily move to Last Chance, Minnesota to visit her grandparents for the summer. Her grandfather gets sick, so they go to help their family and the restaurant they own. After a racially-motivated attack aimed at the restaurant, Maizy learns about her family's culture and history and even some family secrets.