

Grade 7 Students

Choose one of the following:

Whirligig – Paul Fleischman

Self-absorbed, status-conscious Brent attends a party at which he suffers a very public rejection by a girl. He tries to kill himself on the trip home, but his reckless driving kills a stranger instead: a lovely, talented, motivated, high school senior. Brent is tormented and longs to make restitution. The court arranges a meeting with his victim's mother who asks Brent to make four whirligigs of a girl that looks like Lea.

Hope Was Here – Joan Bauer

Hope has a thick skin--you have to in order to be such a great waitress. But at 16, when she and her aunt move to a Midwestern small town to run the diner there, her carefully-constructed detachment is challenged when she meets the owner. For Hope, this is a first: a friend who cares more about other people than he does his own health.

Rules – Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him (It's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store). Then Catherine meets and befriends Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic who uses a book of pictures to communicate. She begins to understand that normal is difficult and perhaps unnecessary, to define.

Heart of a Champion – Carl Deuker

On the day Seth Barham met Jimmy Winter, his life changed. Seth had been an unfocused, confused pre-teen who had never come to terms with his father's death when he was seven. He meets Jimmy in a park as Jimmy's overbearing father is putting his son through intense baseball drills. As their friendship develops, Jimmy's intensity and self-assurance on the playing field spills over into Seth's life, helping him to blossom as a student and a baseball player.

The Uglies – Scott Westerfeld

Tally has grown up in a post-apocalyptic world where, at the age of 16, everyone is given an operation that makes their faces and bodies perfect. Before the operation they are known as "uglies," and after as "pretties." After the operation they live in New Pretty Town. Tally can't wait. Shortly before her 16th birthday she befriends Shay, who tells her about the Smoke, a secret community of those who refuse the operation. When Shay runs away to join the Smoke, Tally is given a choice by the Specials, the secret police: help them find the Smoke and betray her friend, or remain an ugly forever.

Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his guardian uncle has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment: to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country.