

7th Social Studies Summer Reading

Seventh grade social studies is a year that we not only look at events in history, but we also spend a significant amount of time on current events. To help prepare students for situations going on in the world, students are required to read **one** of the following three books below.

Be prepared to discuss your choice on the first day of class. We will have activities surrounding these choices. You are welcome to choose more than one of the three options. This reading CAN count towards the language arts requirement.

Additionally, students will need to do the following:

You MUST:

Assignment 1: Write a few sentences predicting what will happen after the ending and your thoughts on the novel itself (please go beyond simply stating that you liked it or did not like it. Explain why.)

And then **either:**

Assignment 2: Find a news article that relates to the situation within the novel and explain why (bring in the article attached to the explanation).

Or:

Assignment 3: Have a conversation with an adult family member about the novel and provide a paragraph explaining how this conversation went and what was discussed.

You will need to bring assignments # 1 and # 2 or # 3 on the first day of school = 2 assignments.

Novel Choices and Descriptions (from Amazon):

1. *A Long Walk to Water*

The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is a two hour walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

2. *The Breadwinner*

The first book in Deborah Ellis's riveting Breadwinner series is an award-winning novel about loyalty, survival, families, and friendship under extraordinary circumstances during the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan. Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city. Parvana's father — a history teacher until his school was bombed and his health destroyed — works from a blanket on the ground in the marketplace, reading letters for people who cannot read or write. One day, he is arrested for the crime of having a foreign education, and the family is left without someone who can earn money or even shop for food. As conditions for the family grow desperate, only one solution emerges. Forbidden to earn money as a girl, Parvana must transform herself into a boy, and become the breadwinner.

3. [*Refugee*](#)

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . .

ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .

MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . .

All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.