Jefferson Middle School
English Pre-AP 7 Summer Reading List

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Crash*.**

Ever since first grade "Crash" Coogan has been tormenting “dweeby” Penn Ward, a skinny vegetarian Quaker boy who lives in a tiny former garage with his aged parents. Now that they're in seventh grade, Penn becomes an even better target: not only does Penn still wear outdated used clothes, he joins the cheerleading squad. But even though Crash becomes the school's star football player and wears the most expensive togs from the mall, he still can't get what Penn has—his parents' attention and the admiration of the most gorgeous girl in school. And when his beloved grandfather Scooter is severely disabled by a stroke, Crash no longer sees the fun in playing brutal pranks and begins to realize that there are more important things in life than wearing new sneaks and being a sports star.

Voigt, Cynthia. ***The Runner.***

It is the 1960s, the time of the Vietnam War. "Bullet" Tillerman, the school track star, has to decide if he would go to fight or stay on the family farm. Bullet's father, who has already driven Bullet's older brother and sister out of the house, makes impossible demands on him. And his mother seems to have lost the will to resist the old man. Meanwhile, at school, a black student joins the track team, forcing Bullet to question his own prejudices. But nothing can keep him from running. Nothing.

Shusterman, Neil. ***The Schwa was Here***

They say his clothes blend into the background, no matter where he stands. They say a lot of things about the Schwa, but one thing?s for sure: no one ever noticed him. Except me. My name is Antsy Bonano? and I was the one who realized the Schwa was ?functionally invisible? and used him to make some big bucks. But I was also the one who caused him more grief than a friend should. So if you all just shut up and listen, I?ll tell you everything there is to know about the Schwa, from how he got his name, to what really happened with his mom. I?ll spill everything. Unless, of course, ?the Schwa Effect? wipes him out of my brain before I?m done?.

They say his clothes blend into the background, no matter where he stands. They say a lot of things about the Schwa, but one thing?s for sure: no one ever noticed him. Except me. My name is Antsy Bonano? and I was the one who realized the Schwa was ?functionally invisible? and used him to make some big bucks. But I was also the one who caused him more grief than a friend should. So if you all just shut up and listen, I?ll tell you everything there is to know about the Schwa, from how he got his name, to what really happened with his mom. I?ll spill everything. Unless, of course, ?the Schwa Effect? wipes him out of my brain before I?m done?.