

## Grade 7 Summer Reading Assignment

For your summer reading project you will be required to read one text, either fiction or non-fiction, based on your reading level and of your choosing. Please select a text that you haven't read before. Attached is a list of possible options and a link to the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge suggested reading list. These resources may assist your search. After you read, complete the task below.

### ***Your School Library Needs Your Review!***

When items are purchased online from companies such as *Barnes and Noble* and *Amazon*, the organization invites customers to review their new products. Imagine that you bought your summer reading book through one of these sites. Write a review that will help your school library media specialist decide whether or not to purchase this book for your school.

Companies provide guidelines for its reviewers such as the following:

- **Include the "why":** The best reviews include not only whether you liked or disliked a product [book], but also why. Feel free to make comparisons with related products [books] you've experienced.
- **Be specific:** Your review should be relevant to the product [book] you're reviewing and focus on specific features or your experience.
- **Not too short, not too long.**
- **Be sincere:** We welcome your honest opinion about the book. Be sure to support your opinion.

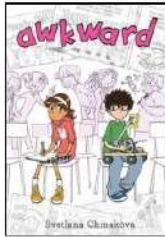
#### **YOUR ASSIGNMENT:**

Keeping these criteria in mind, write a review of the book you read. Your goal is to influence the library media specialist to purchase this book or not.

1. Include the title of the book (underlined) and the author.
2. Begin with a brief summary of the book. Remember not to include the ending.
3. Be sure to discuss the book's theme or central idea. Be sure to include text evidence to support/explain your theme/central idea.
4. Use at least three specific examples from the text as you explain why you did or did not like the book.
5. On a scale of 1-5 stars, rate your book. 5 stars=highly recommended to 1 star=not worth reading.

You may hand write your review or type it. Your work will be scored using the attached rubric, and will count toward your Trimester 1 grade. It is due to your English-Language Arts teacher on September 7, 2018.

## 2019 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees



**Awkward** by Svetlana Chmakova

Right from the first day of middle school, Penelope wants to fit in so badly that she shuns Jaime, the school nerd. Things get awkward when Penelope's art club and Jaime's science club have to compete for school support.



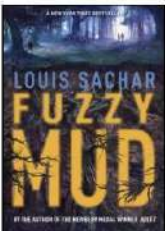
**The Best Man** by Richard Peck

Archer McGill has a pretty awesome family. His architect grandfather designed his school, his dad restores classic cars, and his Uncle Paul has a sweet job with connections to the Chicago Cubs. These three men help Archie navigate through some embarrassing and challenging experiences, but which one is the best?



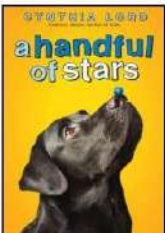
**The Blood Guard** by Carter Roy

Ronan just thought his mom was overscheduling him, signing him up for every possible activity. Then came the day that his dad disappeared and he and his mom are being chased by people who want to capture them. Hopefully he has learned enough skills to survive!



**Fuzzy Mud** by Louis Sachar

Marshall and Tamaya take a shortcut through the woods and encounter a mysterious, bubbling puddle which could put them in more danger than the bully they were trying to avoid.



**A Handful of Stars** by Cynthia Lord

Lily would do anything to raise money for surgery for her old, blind dog, including entering a beauty contest. But when a beautiful, itinerant worker wants to enter too, the girls learn about prejudice and the difficulties of lives of temporary workers.

**The Hero Two Doors Down** by Sharon Robinson

It all started with a rumor (someone farted in the cafeteria) and twins Claudia and Reese were at war. Through text messages, interviews, photos, and screenshots, the series of events in the battle are retold. The pranks are all fun and games until they have to deal with the consequences of their actions.



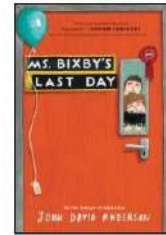
**Loot: How to Steal a Fortune** by Jude Watson

One night a man falls from a rooftop to the pavement below. It's infamous cat burglar Alfie McQuinn, and with his last breath utters the words, "find jewels" to his young son March. March sets out to find the jewels and live the life of riches and freedom most kids only dream about.



**Ms. Bixby's Last Day** by John David Anderson

Have you ever had a teacher who moved you to make sacrifices you wouldn't normally make? Meet Ms. Bixby - an amazing teacher who has this kind of impact on her students. A trio of boys embark on a quest to make sure that their teacher knows how special she is.



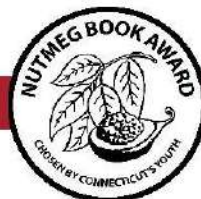
**Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story** by Nora Raleigh Baskin

On September 9, 2001, we meet four kids from different parts of the country who cross paths for an instant. They have no idea that two days later their lives will change forever.



**Seven Dead Pirates** by Linda Bailey

As Lewis's family moves into his great-grandfather's seaside mansion, he realizes he has a problem. Seven problems, actually. Seven dead pirates are living in his bedroom! This rowdy but funny crew is relying on shy Lewis to get them back where they belong. Can he conquer his fears and help them out.



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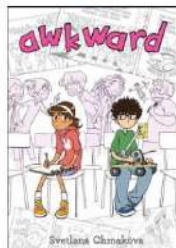
# 2019 Nutmeg Book Award

## Teen Nominees



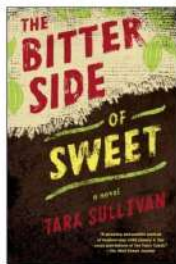
### *All We Have Left* by Wendy Mills

Muslim teen Alia is trapped in the World Trade Center as chaos descends on September 11, 2001. Fifteen years later, Jesse is doing community service as punishment for hateful graffiti. Her brother died in the Twin Towers, and her family was shattered. Alternating chapters tell the girls' stories, eventually connecting them across time.



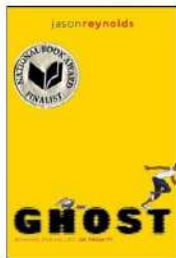
### *Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova

Peppi, a young teenager who only fits in with her art club, embarrasses herself and ends up hurting the feelings of Jaime, the nerdiest kid in school. Jaime, joins the art club's rival: the science club. As the clubs battle it out at school, Peppi and Jaime fight on an emotional level, both learning important lessons in the process.



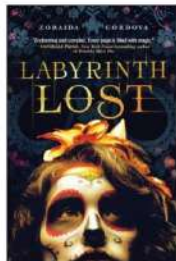
### *The Bitter Side of Sweet* by Tara Sullivan

*The Bitter Side of Sweet* takes a hard look at how cacao harvesting is modern-day slave trade. Amadou and his brother, Seydou, need to harvest more and more cacao pods in order to survive the plantation bosses. Hope arrives with Khadija, the first girl to ever appear on the plantation. She has been forced into labor just like the boys, but as a girl she has even more reason to escape the bosses than they do.



### *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

Castle Crenshaw, a.k.a. Ghost, has been running ever since he and his mom escaped from his father's violent anger. After Ghost inadvertently earns a spot on an elite track team, his mother agrees to let him join, but only if he can stay out of trouble. However, Ghost can't stay on the straight and narrow. Will Coach help him out, or turn him in and cost Ghost his dream?



### *Labyrinth Lost* by Zoraida Córdova

In her attempt to rid herself of her bruja powers, Alejandra accidentally banishes her family to the underworld, known as Los Lagos. In order to make things right, Alex joins up with Nova, a powerful brujo boy, and her non-magical best friend Rishi, to make the dangerous journey to Los Lagos to find them. Can the three work together to bring Alex's family safely back to this world?

### *Need* by Joelle Charbonneau

Everyone is joining the hottest new social media site, and why not? Answer one simple question (What do you need? New phone? Concert tickets?), perform a seemingly minor task, and you get what you asked for. Kaylee's brother needs a new kidney. It's a real long shot, but she figures she'll try NEED - and quickly realizes the high price she'll have to pay.



### *OCDaniel* by Wesley King

Daniel has some strange habits, like flipping light switches, avoiding certain numbers, and more. He doesn't know exactly what's going on, but he tries very hard to make sure no one notices - until someone does. Soon Daniel is caught up in a friendship and then a mystery that will change his life.



### *Outrun the Moon* by Stacey Lee

In the early 1900s, 15-year-old Mercy Wong is determined to escape the poverty of Chinatown by getting an education. Mercy convinces admissions officers to allow her into St. Clare's School for Girls, and she stands strong until a historic earthquake hits San Francisco. Charged with a mission to help others, Mercy searches for a way to make an impact during a tragedy.



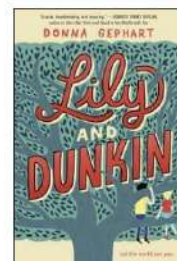
### *The Six* by Mark Alpert

Virtual reality games are Adam's only escape. Muscular dystrophy has stolen his mobility and will soon take his life. When an Artificial Intelligence threatens the world, Adam and five other terminally ill teens are asked to abandon their bodies and have their minds uploaded into robots. Will the team be able to master their new forms and take down Sigma before he destroys humanity?



### *Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart

Lily and Dunkin tell the story of their on-again, off-again friendship in alternating chapters. Middle school is a difficult time for most kids, but Lily and Dunkin face extra challenges with friends and family. Lily, who was born Timothy, is transgender and negotiating a new relationship with her father, while dreading puberty and the unwanted changes it will bring. Dunkin is bipolar and trying to control his manic episodes while making friends in a new school. Their own issues help them to accept each other for who they really are.



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## Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Gives sufficient evidence of key events in text in an organized manner	Gives some evidence of key events in text in an organized manner	Gives limited evidence of key events in text that may or may not be organized	Does not include summary
<b>Theme/ Central Idea</b>	Gives sufficient evidence to determine theme/central idea	Gives some evidence to determine theme/central idea	Gives limited evidence to determine theme/central idea	Does not include theme/central idea
<b>Opinion (this should be the largest part of your review)</b>	Gives at least 3 relevant/specific examples from text to support opinion	Gives at least 2 relevant/specific examples from text to support opinion	Attempts to provide relevant/specific examples from text to support opinion	Does not include relevant/specific examples from text to support opinion OR does not include opinion
<b>Conventions:</b>  • correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling	The response demonstrates a strong command of conventions	The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions	The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions	The response demonstrates little or no command of conventions

**Total points: \_\_\_/12**