

7th Grade Social Studies

Fiction Reading List

The books on this list are not required, simply suggestions from Mrs. Harland, HAJH Librarian. Keep in mind that: **Reading is the key to success in all subjects.**

All of these books are available in the HAJH Library. Reading these books will not only get you extra credit in Social Studies, but will also help you to understand what life is like for regular people living in different cultures.

Beake, Lesley. Song of Be

Be is a young Bushman woman caught between the world of her people and the harsh political realities of the nearly independent Namibia. She faces cultural questions when she falls in love. {Africa}

Buck, Pearl S. The Big Wave

This is the classic children's story about a tidal wave that swept a fishing village in Japan away- and what happens to the young boy who is the only survivor from his family. {Asia}

Chrisman, Arthur Bowie. Shen of the Sea : Chinese Stories for Children

A collection of Chinese stories based on characters of folk and wonder tales. Hidden beneath the surface of these amusing stories is the wise and practical philosophy that has influenced Chinese life for thousands of years. {Asia}

Clinton, Cathryn. A Stone in My Hand

Eleven-year-old Malaak and her family are touched by the violence in Gaza between Jews and Palestinians when first her father disappears and then her older brother is drawn to a radical group. {Middle East}

Crew, Gary. No Such Country

When an archeology student, hoping to learn about his Aboriginal heritage, comes to work near their isolated village, sixteen-year-old friends Sarah and Rachel discover why the man known as the Father has had such control over their lives. {Australia}

Denenberg, Barry. The Journal of Ben Uchida, Citizen #13559, Mirror Lake Internment Camp

12 year old Ben Uchida keeps a journal of his confinement in a Japanese Internment Camp during World War II. {Japan/America}

Desai Hidier, Tanuja. Born Confused

Seventeen-year-old Dimple, whose family is from India, discovers that she is not Indian enough for the Indians and not American enough for the Americans, as she sees her hypnotically beautiful, manipulative best friend taking possession of both her heritage and the boy she likes. {Middle East}

Fama, Elizabeth. Overboard

Escaping from a sinking ferry in the waters off Sumatra, fourteen-year-old Emily fights for survival for herself and a young Indonesian boy, who draws courage from his quiet but firm Islamic faith. {Middle East}

Ferreira, Anton. Zulu Dog

In post-apartheid South Africa, a Zulu boy keeps secrets from his family as he cares for an injured dog and befriends the daughter of a white farmer. {Africa}

Fritz, Jean. Homesick

The author's fictionalized version, though all of the events are true, of her childhood growing up in China in the 1920's. Jean Fritz makes her love for China abundantly clear. The little girl telling the story is funny, curious, independent, and a perceptive observer. {Asia}

Gordon, Sheila. The Middle of Somewhere

Nine-year-old Rebecca and her family, living in a South African village for black people, are threatened with forced removal to a bleak, distant development, to make room for a new suburb for whites. {Africa}

Haugaard, Erik Christian. The Samurai's Tale

In turbulent sixteenth-century Japan, orphaned Taro is taken in by a general serving the great warlord Takeda Shingen and grows up to become a samurai fighting for the enemies of his dead family. {Asia}

Herge. Tintin in Tibet

Tintin searches the mountains of Nepal and Tibet for his friend, victim of an airplane crash. {Asia}

Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas. The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan. {Asia}

Jiang, Ji Li. Red Scarf Girl

A moving story of a courageous young girl who defends her love for her family during the Cultural Revolution that took place in China in the 1960s and 70s. {Asia}

Jicai, Feng. Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom

An artist is forced to work in a factory where he faces torture and humiliation because he voiced his own thoughts during Communist China's 'Cultural Revolution.' {Asia}

Kipling, Rudyard. The Jungle Book

The classic tales of Mowgli, the lost boy raised by wolves in the jungles of India. {Middle East}

Lester, Julius. Pharaoh's Daughter

A fictionalized account of the Biblical tale in which a Hebrew infant, rescued by the daughter of the Pharaoh, passes through a turbulent adolescence to eventually become a prophet of his people while his sister finds her true self as a priestess to the Egyptian gods. {Africa}

Levitin, Sonia. Escape from Egypt

When Moses comes to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land, Jesse, a Hebrew slave, finds his life changed by his growing faith in God and his attraction to the half-Egyptian, half-Syrian Jennat. {Africa/Middle East}

Mazer, Harry. A Boy At War

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell. {America/Asia}

McCaughrean, Geraldine. The Kite Rider

12 year old Haoyou is offered the chance to change his life: he had lived in poverty, but was now becoming the famous Circus performing "kite rider." Not only does Haoyou earn freedom, money, and fame- but he also gets the chance to talk to the recently lost souls who float in the sky. An adventurous story set in the dangerous world of Kublai Khan and thirteenth century China. {Asia}

Na, An. A Step From Heaven

A young Korean girl and her family move to California and find it difficult to learn English and fit in to our culture. A sweet, simple, and innocent book written from the point of view of a 7 year old girl. {Asia}

Napoli, Donna Jo. Beast

Elaborates on the tale of "Beauty and the Beast," told from the point of view of the beast set in Persia. {Asia}

Nye, Naomi Shihab. Habibi

When fourteen-year-old Liyanne Abboud, her younger brother, and her parents move from St. Louis to a new home between Jerusalem and the Palestinian village where her father was born, they face many changes and must deal with the tensions between Jews and Palestinians. {Middle East}

Park, Linda Sue. When My Name Was Keoko

A World War II novel about a Korean family living under the Japanese occupation of their country. Sun-hee is made to take the Japanese name Keoko and her older brother Taeyul is now Nobuo. This novel is two parallel stories in one: one from Keoko's view and one from Nobuo's view. {Asia}

Park, Linda Sue. A Single Shard

Tree-Ear is a 13 year old orphan who lives under the railroad bridge with his friend . All he wants in the world is to learn to make pottery, like the masters in town can make. Set in Medieval Korea, this novel is a moving portrayal of class differences. {Asia}

Pray, Ralph. Jingu: The Hidden Princess

In fourth-century Japan, a princess lives a life of loneliness and learning until she makes a secret friend, but her destiny forbids that they ever be more than friends. {Asia}

Sacks, Margaret. Beyond Safe Boundaries

Elizabeth comes of age in South Africa as her older sister joins a secret group opposed to apartheid. This is a powerful novel with remarkable portraits of the diverse groups that make up South Africa in the 1960's. {Africa}

Smith, Roland. Thunder Cave

Jacob travels to Kenya in search of his naturalist father who is studying elephants. There he meets Supeet, a Masai with a quest of his own. Both boys together try to save the great elephants of Africa before the last one is slaughtered. {Africa}

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. The Egypt Game

A group of children, entranced with the study of Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder. A clever adventure set in 1960's America, but filled with the myths and legends of Egypt. {Africa/America}

Southall, Ivan. Josh

In this book, 14 year old Josh visits the outback country town of Ryan Creek, which is completely different from the Melbourne life he has known. He only spends three days in Ryan Creek, but his encounters with the young people of Ryan Creek are violent, humorous, and unforgettable. {Australia}

Southall, Ivan. Rachel

Rachel, a well-bred young lady from Australia avoids trouble one day on her walk home from school by cutting through the bushlands of the forbidden zone. Miraculously, her best friend's brother Eddie is there, too. Together the two are stuck in Nature's great ditch, both expecting at any moment to fall down a shaft, get eaten alive by the Tantanoola tiger, be crushed by a boulder, or die of the cold. {Australia}

Whelan, Gloria. Homeless Bird

An insightful tale of growing up in a middle eastern world where riches are measured not in monetary wealth, but in happiness and personal fulfillment. {Middle East}

Williams, Michael. Into the Valley

16 year old Walter involves himself in the interracial fighting in the Ilongweni Valley after his older brother is killed in the South African Defense Force. {Africa}

Yep, Laurence. Dragonwings

Moon Shadow's father works in the family laundry, but he is also a maker of fantastic kites and his dream is to build and fly an airplane. The story is original and filled with Chinese folklore, family relationships, and discrimination of the Chinese people who live in San Francisco in the early 20th-Century. {Asia}