

Dear Seventh Grade Scholars,

Let me be among the first to say, "Congratulations!" and, "Welcome to seventh grade!"

We have an exciting journey ahead of us. I am looking forward to meeting you and learning about your goals for this school year and beyond.

In preparation for our discoveries, please read as much as possible this summer. I encourage you to investigate topics of interest. Whether you're thinking about paleontology, archeology, or marine biology, there are many rich choices to answer some of your big questions. The realm of fiction has the power to take you places that you have only dreamed about visiting, and the arts can help you express your creativity.

We all bring our own true selves to our reading choices. My summer reading includes *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor and *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin. I am also reading non-fiction titles *A Novel Approach* by Kate Roberts and *Everything's an Argument* by Lunsford and Ruskiewicz.

Please set a realistic goal to read for 30 minutes a day this summer to maintain the good habits you have acquired in 6th grade. Please keep an electronic record of when you start and finish each book.

Remember, persistence, not perfection, will lead you to success. So read as many days as you possibly can, but don't get stressed out if you don't get to read while camping, canoeing, or water skiing. At a minimum, please finish reading three books by the time you get back in September.

I have provided some suggestions below. They are grouped because reading a series or books that are related can be interesting and motivating. You may also choose your own titles; just check out the reading level of the book to ensure that it is at or near a 7th grade reading level using the Scholastic.com Book Wizard which will give you the GR or guided reading level (books in the U-Z range are acceptable, try to select ones that are in the band UVW or XYZ that you were accustomed to reading in 6th grade). Do not rely uniquely on the "interest level" ratings provided on the book jacket.

Please email me if you have questions. Finally, please also take time to relax. Enjoy the sunshine, fresh air, and fun of summer. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Best Regards,  
Mr. Stephen Miller  
7th Grade English Teacher

P.S. I am a big *Star Wars* fan! Hence, the Jedi levels on the Jedi Summer Reading Record.



**A S M S**

**SEVENTH GRADE**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **May I read a book I have already read?**

You may read a book you have formerly read and enjoyed, but please make sure that at least two of the titles you choose are new to you.

- **May I listen to the book or read it with someone else's help?**

Please feel free to complete your reading using electronic media and even listening to the audio version of the books available from your library or on e-reader versions of some devices such as the Nook. Alternatively, you can read to or with an adult. If you read on your own, take time to tell someone about the story, meaning the plot and the characters.

## SOME READING SUGGESTIONS to choose from OR to inspire YOUR OWN CHOICES:

- Check out [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) for some great reader reviews if you need help making your selections.

## DYSTOPIAN

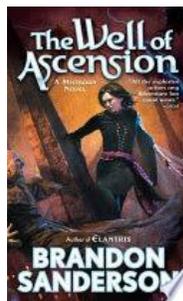
### The Mistborn Trilogy



*Mistborn* by Brian Sanderson

Lexile level HL740L

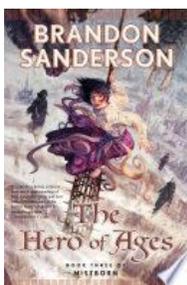
In a world where ash falls from the sky, and mist dominates the night, an evil cloaks the land and stifles all life. The future of the empire rests on the shoulders of a troublemaker and his young apprentice. Together, can they fill the world with color once more?



*Well of Ascension*

690L

Evil has been defeated. The war has just begun. They did the impossible, deposing the godlike being whose brutal rule had lasted a thousand years. Now Vin, the street urchin who has grown into the most powerful Mistborn in the land, and Elend Venture, the idealistic young nobleman who loves her, must build a healthy new society in the ashes of an empire.



*Hero of Ages*

750L

Tricked into releasing the evil spirit Ruin while attempting to close the Well of Ascension, new emperor Elend Venture and his wife, the assassin Vin, are now hard-pressed to save the world from Ruin's deadly Inquisitors, the insidious lethal mists called the Deepness, and the increasingly heavy falls of black ash that threaten to bury the land and starve its inhabitants.

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**The Frost Chronicles** by Kate Avery Ellison (five-book series with a female protagonist; a slight romantic subplot)



*Frost*

In the icy, monster-plagued world of the Frost, one wrong move and a person could end up dead—and Lia Weaver knows this better than anyone. After monsters kill her parents, she must keep the family farm running despite the freezing cold and threat of monster attacks, or she will risk losing her siblings to reassignment by the village Elders....When her sister finds a fugitive bleeding to death in the forest,...Lia ...does the unthinkable.



*Thorns*

Frost has changed...the Farthers have taken over Lia's village, a new group of vigilantes calling themselves the Blackcoats are making plans to overthrow the Farther occupiers, and the Thorns are seeking for her to join them. She seeks to fight back against the evil and injustice that has swallowed up her home, but danger lurks at every turn. The monsters that dwell in the deepest regions of the Frost are growing bolder and more dangerous every day.



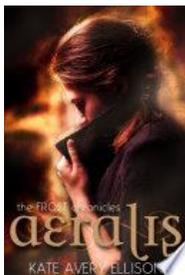
*Weavers*

Everyday, life in the Frost grows increasingly perilous for its inhabitants. The Farther occupation continues, and food is becoming scarce. Lia Weaver's family is facing increasing perils, too—Jonh pushes his health to the brink as he works to uncover the secrets of Echlos. For the second time, the Weaver family is harboring a fugitive, but Lia doesn't trust her.



*Bluewing*

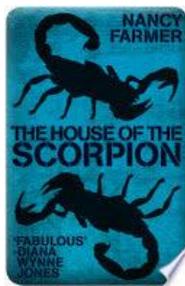
Lia Weaver is a fugitive...She and a band of fugitive followers must make their home in the harsh wilderness of the Frost....Lia is determined to rescue her missing friends. A surprising ally steps forth with an offer that will both return her friends and expel the Farthers from the Frost in exchange for something very precious. Lia must make a choice.



*Aeralis*

The Farthers have finally been driven from the Frost, but the danger is not over yet. When an unexpected enemy surfaces in the Frost wilderness and endangers Lia's family, she faces a terrible choice, and against Thorns' orders, she sets out to find answers in Aeralis

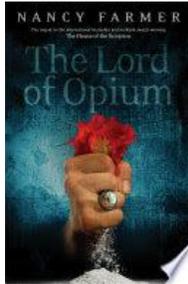
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**Two-book series by Nancy Farmer, the first of which is considered a modern classic**

*The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer GR-level: Z 660L

In a land called Opium, lives a powerful drug Lord called El Patron. The book is the science fiction story of Matteo Alacrán, one of El Patron's many clones, and about his struggle to survive as a free individual.



*The Lord of Opium* by Nancy Farmer

HL700L

Matt has always been nothing but a clone... Now, at age fourteen, he finds himself suddenly thrust into the position of ruling over his own country. The Land of Opium is the largest territory of the Dope Confederacy, which ranges. But while Opium thrives, the rest of the world has been devastated by ecological disaster—and hidden in Opium is the cure.

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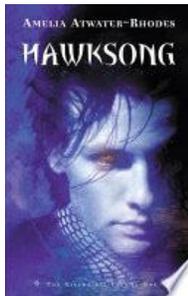
*Incarceron* and *Sapphique* by Catherine Fisher HL600L

(Two book series with advanced themes and simple vocabulary)

Sealed for centuries, Incarceron is a prison so vast that it contains not only cells and corridors, but metal forests, dilapidated cities, and wilderness. Only one man has ever escaped. Finn has always been a prisoner here. His chance to break free, is Claudia, the warden's daughter, herself determined to escape an arranged marriage.

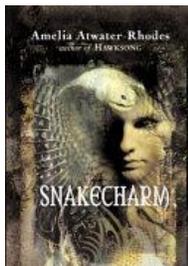
## FANTASY, ADVENTURE, ROMANCE

**The Kiesha'ra Series** by Amelia Atwater Rhodes is a set of five fantasy novels which focus on several races of shapeshifters, including the avians (bird people), the serpiente (snake people), and the shm'Ahnmik (falcon people).



*Hawksong* by Amelia Atwater Rhodes GR-level: Z 930L

In a land that has been at war for so long that no one remembers the reason for fighting, the shapeshifters who rule the two kingdoms agree to marry and unite the kingdoms in an effort to stop the bloodshed.



*Snakecharm* by Amelia Atwater Rhodes

940L

Zane, a Cobra shapeshifter, thanks the gods every day for Danica and the peace their union has brought to their kingdoms. Soon, she will bear a child to carry on the royal line, but what should be a happy time is troubled by the arrival of an ancient falcon, more powerful than avians and serpiente combined, and who shows nothing but contempt for Zane and Danica's alliance.



*Falcondance*

870L

Nicias has never felt completely at home among the avians and serpente in Wyvern's court despite his loyalty to the heir of both thrones. He is a falcon, son of two exiles from Anhmik-and images of this distant island have always haunted his dreams.  
See also *Wolfcry* and *Wyvernhal*.

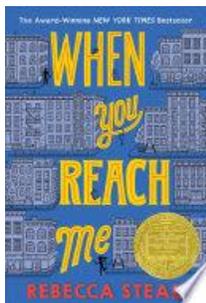
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## ADVENTURE, SCIENCE-FICTION, FANTASY

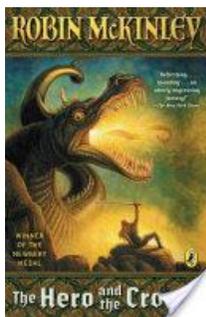
Related titles: Read the following as a companion pair in the order in which they appear.



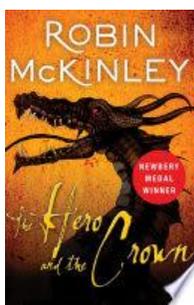
*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle      740L = easy vocabulary  
It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger. "Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of way, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract." A tesseract (in case the reader doesn't know) is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of Miss L'Engle's unusual book.



*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead      750L = easy vocabulary  
In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

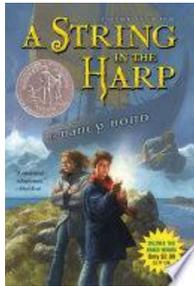


*The Blue Sword* by Robin McKinley    GR: Y 1030L = challenging vocabulary  
ALA Best Books for Young Adults list Newbery Honor Award  
Harry Crewe, an orphan girl, leads a quiet, ordinary life in the country of Damar until the night she is kidnapped by the Hillfolk King. Bewildered, she knows neither the Hillfolk language nor the reason she has been chosen. She is to be trained in the arts of war until she is a match for any of the King's men. Does she have the courage to accept her true fate?



*The Hero and the Crown* by Robin McKinley    GR: Z 1120L  
1985 Newbery Medal winner

Although she is the daughter of Damar's king, Aerin has never been accepted as full royalty. Both in and out of the royal court, people whisper the story of her mother, the witch woman, who was said to have enspelled the king into marrying her to get an heir to rule Damar-then died of despair when she found she had borne a daughter instead of a son. But none of them, not even Aerin herself, can predict her future-for she is to be the true hero....



*String in the Harp* by Nancy Bond  
1977 Newbery Award winner

810L

Discover what happens to three American children, unwillingly transplanted to Wales for one year, when one of them finds an ancient harp-tuning key.

Read the following three titles by Vivian Van de Velde in any order.

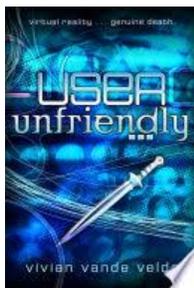


*Heir Apparent*

GR-level: W

820L

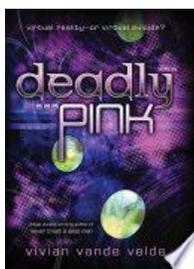
This zany tale is about a girl who becomes trapped inside a looping virtual-reality, role-playing Game.



*User Unfriendly*

750L

Arvin and his gang are in for no dull video game. The program plugs right into the players' brains, putting them in the middle of a daring quest to rescue a kidnapped princess. They fight a dizzying array of orcs, wolves and other evil doers, but their biggest challenges come from dangerous glitches in the computer program.



*Deadly Pink*

850L

As in *User Unfriendly* (1991) and *Heir Apparent* (2002), the game, called "The Land of Golden Butterflies," is fully immersive, fed directly into the brain through electrodes. Into this game 14-year-old Grace Pizzelli's big sister Emily has gone; moreover, she has refused to come out and altered the code so she can't be forcibly ejected. Grace will have to go to the rescue.



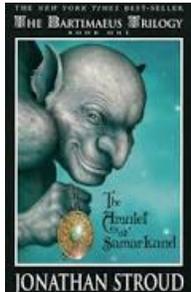
*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

990L

In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. When Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take the

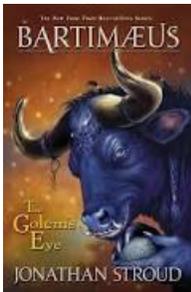
ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

### The Bartimaeus Trilogy by Jonathan Stroud



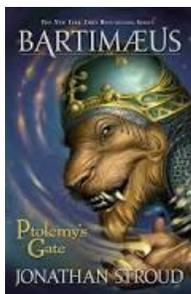
*The Amulet of Samarkand* GR-level: Y 800L

The djinni Bartimaeus is summoned by an ambitious young magician, Nathaniel, and sent across London to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the sinister Simon Lovelace. A whirlwind of espionage, murder and rebellion ensues.



*The Golem's Eye* GR-level: X 800L

Set in somewhat modern-day London in an alternate history in which magic is commonplace and magicians are an accepted part of society and are even in positions of power. Nathaniel and his wisecracking partner, Bartimaeus, embark on a quest to discover the secret behind the commoners' resistance to magic.



*Ptolemy's Gate* GR-level: X 730L

Three years have passed since the magician Nathaniel (otherwise known as John Mandrake) helped prevent an attack on London that would have been cataclysmic for its magicians and commoners. Now the British Empire is falling apart.

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### ADVENTURE, COMEDY, HUMOR



*The Lemony Snicket Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket 1010-1120L

The Baudelaire orphans, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny are kind hearted and quick-witted, but their lives are filled with bad luck and misery and are filled with delightfully funny adventures.

### ADVENTURE, MYSTERY, SUSPENSE

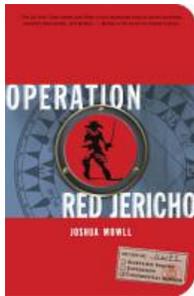


*The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart 840L

Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" When this peculiar ad appears in the newspaper, dozens of children enroll to take a series of mysterious, mind-bending tests. But, in the end, just four very special children will succeed. Their

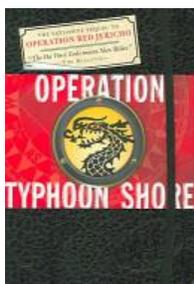
challenge: to go on a secret mission only the most intelligent and resourceful children can complete.

### The Guild of Specialists Trilogy by Joshua Mowll



*Operation Red Jericho* 850L

For Joshua Mowll, it was the surprise of a lifetime. There, among the archives inherited from his great-aunt Rebecca MacKenzie, was a 1920's journal recounting the thrilling and dangerous adventures of fifteen-year old Rebecca and her younger brother, Doug, in the wake of their parents mysterious disappearance in the deserts of China.



*Operation Typhoon Shore* 850L

After being lashed by a typhoon on their uncle's ship, The Expedient, intrepid siblings Becca and Doug MacKenzie want nothing more than to escape from the volcanic island on which they're stranded and resume the search for their parents. But their uncle, Captain MacKenzie, seems more concerned with the missing gyrolabe than their missing mother and father, and he refuses to discuss the role the mysterious Guild of Specialists played in their disappearance.

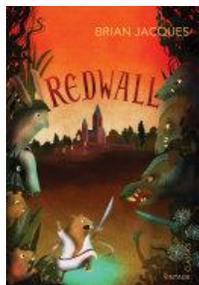


*Operation Storm City* 850L

Deep in the Sinkiang Desert in China, forces converge in the race to find Ur-Can -- the fabled Storm City. Becca and Doug are desperate to reach the lost city and discover their parents' fate, but enemies, old and new, threaten to arrive first and take control of the ancient machine located there. Can Doug and Becca solve the final mystery and stop the power-hungry General Pugachev from endangering the planet -- or will they find their parents only to lose them forever?

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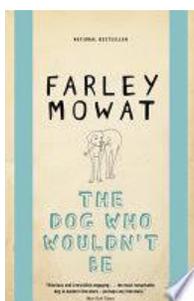
### ANIMAL FICTION, ADVENTURE



*Redwall* by Brian Jacques 800L

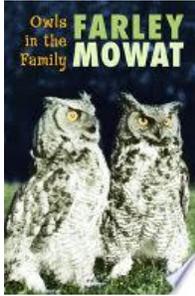
Welcome to Mossflower Wood, where the gentle mice have gathered to celebrate a year of peace and abundance. All is well...until a sinister shadow falls across the ancient stone abbey of Redwall. Cluny, the terrible one-eyed rat and his savage horde are coming.

### COMEDY, HUMOR, ANIMALS



*The Dog Who Wouldn't Be* by Farley Mowat 1280L

Mowat's best loved book tells the splendidly entertaining story of his boyhood on the Canadian prairies. Mutt's pedigree was uncertain, but his madness was indisputable.... He was a marvelous dog, worthy of an unusual boy growing up a raw, untamed wilderness.

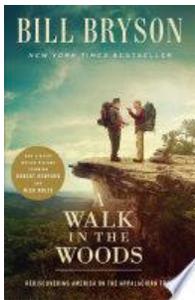


*Owls in the Family* by Farley Mowat

980L

Every child needs to have a pet. No one could argue with that. But what happens when your pet is an owl, and your owl is terrorizing the neighborhood? In Mowat's exciting story, a young boy's pet menagerie grows out of control with the addition pet owls. The story is warm, funny, and bursting with adventure and suspense.

## NONFICTION, HUMOR

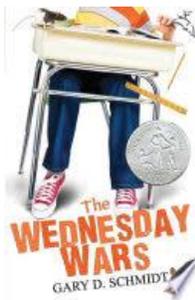


*A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson

1210L

Bill Bryson set off to hike the Appalachian Trail, the longest continuous footpath in the world. Ahead lay almost 2,200 miles of remote mountain wilderness filled with bears, moose, bobcats, rattlesnakes, poisonous plants, disease-bearing ticks, and the occasional chuckling murderer. Interesting, funny, and filled with historical information, this book offers something for everyone.

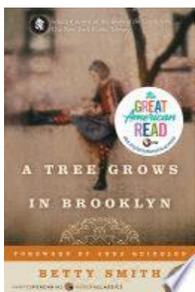
## REALISTIC FICTION



*The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt

990L

A wonderfully witty and compelling novel about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967–68 school year. Holling, the anti-hero, finds motivation — the Big M — in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.



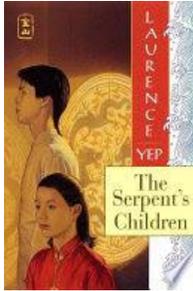
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

810L

As she comes of age in Brooklyn in the early 1900s, Francie and her family experience hard times, good times, change, and renewal.

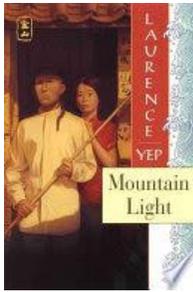
## HISTORICAL FICTION

### The Golden Mountain Chronicles by Laurence Yep



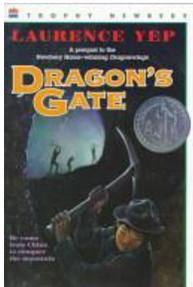
*The Serpent's Children* GR: W 770L

When villagers call Cassia and her brother, Foxfire, "the serpent's children," they mean it as an insult. But to Cassia it is an honor, for legend says that once a serpent sets her mind on something, she never gives up. And in a time when famine, drought, and violence mark her family's life, Cassia has nothing less than survival to fight for.



*Mountain Light* 730L

Their families fought one another for generations, maintaining an age-old blood feud. But that changed when they found themselves on the same side of a new struggle against the tyrannical Manchu dynasty. By devoting himself fully to the revolution, Squeaky Lau wins Cassia's trust -- and her heart.



*Dragon's Gate* GR: W 730L

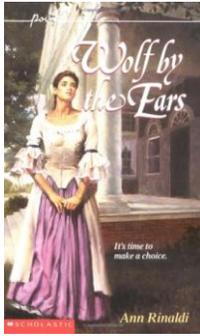
Newbery Medal winner

When Otter arrives in America to join his father and his uncle as they work building the railroad, he finds the conditions harsher than he had expected and must reassess his dreams and goals. When he accidentally kills a Manchu, a fifteen-year-old Chinese boy is sent to America to join his father, an uncle, and other Chinese working to build a tunnel for the transcontinental railroad through the Sierra Nevada mountains in 1867.



*The Fifth of March* by Ann Rinaldi 600L

Fourteen-year-old Rachel Marsh is a servant in the Boston household of John Adams. Her loyalty to the Adams family will be tested by her friendship with a British soldier with a bad reputation who is accused of joining soldiers in firing upon a mob of citizens in the bloody encounter that came to be known as the Boston Massacre



*Wolf by the Ears* by Ann Rinaldi 580L

An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

A gripping tale of the slave, Harriet Hemings, who, it was rumored, was the daughter of Thomas Jefferson. This book is "history brought to life by a skillful and imaginative author."



*The Letter Writer* by Ann Rinaldi 730L

Eleven-year-old Harriet Whitehead is an outsider in her own family. She feels accepted and important only when she is entrusted to write letters for her blind stepmother. Then Nat Turner, a slave preacher, arrives on her family's plantation and Harriet befriends him, entranced by his gentle manner and eloquent sermons about an all-forgiving God. When Nat asks Harriet for a map of the county to help him spread the word, she draws it for him—wanting to be part of something important. But the map turns out to be the missing piece that sets Nat's secret plan in motion and makes Harriet an unwitting accomplice to the bloodiest slave uprising in U.S. history.

Instructions: Print a copy of this page. Fill in the titles, number of pages, and dates that you finished the books you read this summer. If you can't recall the exact date, fill in the month. If you didn't note the number of pages, you can look that up on a library website or on Amazon.com. Bring your list to school for orientation or on the first day of class.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite Character from reading: \_\_\_\_\_

### Jedi Summer Reading Record

Title	# of pages	Date Finished
Welcome Initiate		
Welcome Padawan		
Welcome Knight		
Welcome Master		

Though we are equals in the Force, the more well-read members offer an expertise that deserves respect by those who have not yet achieved such a station.

**Jedi Initiate** = 1 - 3 books

**Jedi Padawan** = 4 - 6 books

**Jedi Knight** = 7 - 9 books

**Jedi Master** = 10 or more books