

## Waldorf Grade 7 Book Recommendations

Seventh graders are in the throes of the mighty force of puberty and the birth of the last of the “finer bodies” that some would call the “aura” of the human being. No births are quiet and the chatter in a classroom is the sound that begins in sixth grade and lasts through eighth and signals the arrival of a new birth, new capacities, and new challenges. The growth at this time in a young human being rivals the growth of a newborn and will not be repeated for the rest of life. It’s a lot to manage and requires empathy as well as organization to help youngsters through this time. New capacities of discernment and positive judgement will be forthcoming along with breakthroughs that are, at times, remarkable in their light, strength, and accuracy. At other times, a teacher or parent can be left feeling that absolutely nothing has been taught or retained in all the preceding years, so blank the stares can be in response to the recalling of a lesson long ago!

The adage, “Growth stunts consciousness; consciousness stunts growth,” is helpful to remember. The key is to create a loving distance between you and your youngster(s) and insist on completion of tasks before agreeing to any “bargains.” We work at this time on “contracts toward increasing responsibility.” Much complaining might be present and should be met with sympathy but insistence on follow up to work that isn’t yet finished. Once children engage with their will, they feel better. This lesson that work eases pain and creates a feeling of accomplishment is a skill for life. And it is a gift. It also encourages self-responsibility and avoids indulging the complaints, the dwelling in pain, the inevitable upset we can all remember from this time. Compassion is in order; but also, a strictness of agreements and completion of work assigned — chores, homework, and emotional agreements — all!

Exploration around the globe, and the Renaissance, are two strong components of the seventh-grade curriculum. The youngster is now capable of imagining all the way around the world and of exercising the considerable artistic skills practiced daily in Waldorf schools. These both should be implemented and celebrated in grade seven.

The opportunity in 2020, following the “Black Lives Matter” events, is to teach history as honestly as possible, less like the persistent narrative in North America which tends toward white men as heroes and toward downplaying colonization and slavery. This needs to be done with care to not burden the young soul too early with such issues. There is time enough for this in high school, when the astral body has fully arrived. Truthfulness need not blame or create a culture of despair. And there must be mindfulness always about the young people entrusted to you — and their heritage. You will find that the Renaissance was also present in the Ming Dynasty and in India and South America and can be told from directions appropriate for those in your class or in your care.

### For Waldorf Teachers and Parents

- [\*A Handbook for Waldorf Class Teachers\*](#) Kevin Avison  
[\*Assessment for Learning in Waldorf Classrooms\*](#) Sara Ciborski & Helen-Ann Ireland  
[\*Awakening Intelligence\*](#) Magda Lisseau  
[\*Balance in Teaching\*](#) Rudolf Steiner  
[\*Education Teaching, and Practical Life\*](#) Rudolf Steiner  
[\*Evaluation, Homework, and Teacher's Support\*](#) David Mitchell, ed.  
[\*Finding Your Self\*](#) Torin Finser  
[\*From Images to Thinking\*](#) David Mitchell, ed.  
[\*Immersion Learning: A Travelogue\*](#) Frans Lutters  
[\*Kinesthetic Learning for Adolescents\*](#) Leonore Russell, ed.  
[\*Leaving Room for the Angels\*](#) Reg Down  
[\*Rubicon\*](#) Monica Ruef and Rudolf Steiner  
[\*Rudolf Steiner's Observations on Adolescence\*](#) David Mitchell & Christopher Clouder, eds  
[\*Second Grade Development, Observation and Assessment\*](#) Else Gottgens (it can be useful, in sections, for assessing at any age)  
[\*Solving the Riddle of the Child\*](#) Christof Wiechert  
*Tapestry of a Waldorf Curriculum* Tobias Richer  
[\*Tending the Spark\*](#) Betty Staley  
[\*Trailing Clouds of Glory\*](#) Douglas Gerwin

### For Meeting Children's Needs in the Grade 7 Waldorf Classroom

- [\*Developing the Observing Eye\*](#) Cynthia Lange  
[\*Difficult Children: There Is No Such Thing\*](#) Henning Koehler and Joseph Bailey  
[\*Educating the Will\*](#) Michael Howard  
[\*Helping Children on Their Way\*](#) Elizabeth Auer  
[\*Observing the Class Observing the Children\*](#) David Mitchell, ed.  
[\*Raphael: The Mysteries of Illness and Healing\*](#) Michaela Glöckler, M.D.  
[\*The Four Temperaments\*](#) Helmut Eller  
[\*Will-Developed Intelligence\*](#) Patricia Livingston and David Mitchell  
[\*Working with Anxious, Nervous, and Depressed Children\*](#) Henning Koehler and Joseph Baily

## For Curriculum Development in Waldorf Grade 7:

### Mathematics and Geometry in Waldorf Grade 7

- [\*Active Arithmetic\*](#) Henning Andersen  
[\*Finding the Path\*](#) Bengt Ulin  
[\*Making Math Meaningful, A Source Book for Middle School\*](#) Jaimie York  
[\*Making Math Meaningful A 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Workbook\*](#) Jaimie York  
[\*Mensuration\*](#) Amos Franceschelli  
[\*Negative Numbers: A Collection for Students\*](#) Stephan Sigler  
[\*Negative Numbers: A Collection for Teachers\*](#) Stephan Sigler  
*The Waldorf Approach to Arithmetic* Herman von Baravalle  
*Teaching Mathematics in Rudolf Steiner Schools* Ron Jarman  
[\*Triangle, Circle and Soul\*](#) Harry Kretz

### Language Arts in Waldorf Grade 7

- [\*An English Grammar\*](#) Rudolf Schmid  
[\*An English Manual\*](#) Dorothy Harrer  
[\*Fire the Imagination — Write On!\*](#) Dorit Winter  
*Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge* Gloria Cooper  
[\*Spelling by Hand\*](#) Jeremy Herrmann  
[\*Teaching Language Arts in a Waldorf School\*](#) Roberto Trostli, ed.  
*The Art and Science of Teaching Composition* Dorit Winter  
[\*The Power of Grammar\*](#) Anne Greer

### History in Waldorf Grade 7

- Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael* Ernst Uehli  
[\*On Teaching History\*](#) Henry Barnes  
[\*The Revelations of Evolutionary Events\*](#) Evelyn Debusschere

### Science in Waldorf Grade 7

- [\*A Brief History of Chemistry\*](#) Michael Ridenour  
[\*A Phenomena-Based Physics\*](#) Manfred von Mackensen  
[\*Earth Science\*](#) Hans Ulrich Schmutz  
[\*Fundamentals for a Phenomenological Study of Chemistry\*](#) Fritz Julius  
*Man in Nature: America before the Days of the White Man* Carl Sauer  
[\*Physics the Waldorf Way for Grade 7\*](#) Roberto Trostli  
[\*Sensible Physics Teaching\*](#) Stephen Edelglass and Michael D'Aleo  
[\*The Wonders of Waldorf Chemistry\*](#) David Mitchell

### **Geography in Waldorf Grade 7**

[\*Earth Science\*](#) Hans Ulrich Schmutz

*Longitude* Dava Sobel

*Man in Nature* Carl Sauer

### **Music and Recorder in Waldorf Grade 7**

[\*At Home in Harmony\*](#) Meg Chittenden

[\*Building the Chorus\*](#) Arnold Logan

[\*Music from around the World for Three Part Recorder Ensemble\*](#) Michael Preston

[\*Recorder Ensemble\*](#) Stephen Bernstein

[\*Songs of Heaven and Earth\*](#) Merwin Lewis

[\*The Importance of Being Musical\*](#) Cynthia Frangelo

[\*Voyage in Song and Story\*](#) Jennette Resnick

### **Drama and the Class Play in Waldorf Grade 7**

[\*Clothing the Play\*](#) Rosewitha Spence

[\*Eureka! The Life and Times of Archimedes\*](#) John Trevillion and Jeffrey Spade

[\*Hawthorne Valley Harvest\*](#) William Ward, ed.

[\*Pedagogical Theater\*](#) Arthur Pittis

*The Music of the Spheres* John Trevillion & Merwin Lewis

[\*Three Plays for Small Classes\*](#) Vivian Jones-Schmidt

### **Art in Waldorf Grade 7**

[\*Bare Hand Knitting\*](#) Aleshanee Akin

[\*Come Unto These Yellow Sands\*](#) Molly von Heider

[\*Creative Pathways\*](#) Elizabeth Auer

[\*Eurythmy: A Creative Force in Humanity\*](#) Sylvia Bardt

[\*Eurythmy for the Elementary Grades\*](#) Francine Adam

[\*Learning About the World through Modeling\*](#) Arthur Auer

[\*Learning to See the world through Drawing\*](#) Elizabeth Auer

[\*Painting at School\*](#) Dick Bruin and Attie Lichthardt

[\*The Temperaments and the Arts\*](#) Magda Lissau

**Readers for Waldorf Seventh Graders**

*A Light in the Forest* Conrad Richter  
[Brother Frances](#) Jakob Streit  
*Buzzy and the River Rats, volumes I, II, and III* John Hoffman  
[Columban](#) Jakob Streit  
[Copernicus: Struggle and Victory](#) Heinz Sponsel  
[Geron and Virtus](#) Jakob Streit  
[Invisible Guardians](#) Jakob Streit  
*Men of Iron* Howard Pyle and anything by this author  
*Old Yeller* Fred Gipson and Steven Polson  
*Otto of the Silver Hand* Howard Pyle  
[Roman Lives](#) Dorothy Harrer  
[Saint Odelia](#) Jakob Streit  
*Sir Nigel* Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
[Star of the Sea](#) William Ward  
[The Bee Book](#) Jakob Streit  
[The Falconer](#) Christopher Sblendorio  
[The Invisible Boat](#) Eric Müller  
[The Invisible Boat and the Molton Dragon](#) Eric Müller  
[The Star Rider and Anna McLoon](#) re-told by Jakob Streit  
[The Star Trilogy](#) Donald Samson  
*The Trumpeter of Krakow* Eric P. Kelly  
*Where the Red Fern Grows* Wilson Rawls  
*Witch of Blackbird Pond* Elizabeth George Speare