

Book Lists for Summer Reading

These books have been suggested by students and English department faculty. Some of the texts are more difficult than others; some are more violent, mature, or otherwise have content that might be disconcerting. Any choice you make should take into account your own present reading ability—challenge yourself—and the input of your home adult.

Grade 9 (incoming freshmen)

Douglas Adams

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Dan Brown

The DaVinci Code

Mark Haddon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

Laurie Halse-Anderson

Wintergirls

Barry Hannah

Geronimo Rex

Seamus Heaney

Burial at Thebes

John Hersey

Hiroshima

Farley Mowat

Never Cry Wolf

Alice Sebold

The Lovely Bones

Betty Smith

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

J.R.R. Tolkein

The Hobbit

Keith Zimmerman

Mythbusters

Ransom Riggs

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

John Green
Fault in Their Stars

Stewart Cowle
Searching for Bigfoot

Paul Janeczko
The Dark Game: True Spies

Gary Blackwood
Mysterious Messages: A History of Codes and Ciphers

David Southwell
Unsolved Extraterrestrial Mysteries

Wendelin Van Draanen
The Running Dream

James Dashner
The Maze Runner

Leila Sales
This Song Will Save Your Life

Grade 10 (incoming sophomores)

Sherman Alexi
The Lone Ranger and Tonto
Fistfight in Heaven

Jay Asher
Thirteen Reasons Why

Karel Capek
R.U.R.

Billy Collins
Poetry 180

Daoud Hari
The Translator

Khaled Hosseini
The Kite Runner

Yasmina Khadra
The Swallows of Kabul

John Krakauer
Into Thin Air

Nelson Mandela
No Easy Walk to Freedom

Kenzaburo Oe
Nip the Buds, Shoot the Kids

Jodi Picoult
Nineteen Minutes

Lisa See
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

Diana Childress
Chaucer's England

Russell Freedman
The War to End All Wars: World War I

David Abbott
The Twin Towers

Alex Wolf
Osama bin Laden

Tabatha Yeatts
The Holocaust Survivors

Libba Bray
The Gemma Doyle Trilogy

Grade 11 (incoming juniors)

Stephen Ambrose
Undaunted Courage

Ray Bradbury
Fahrenheit 451

Stephen King
Different Seasons (four novellas)

Mark Twain
Letters from the Earth

Tom Clancy
The Hunt for Red October

Willa Cather
My Antonia

Leslie Marmon Silko
Ceremony

Zora Neale Hurston
The Complete Stories

John Irving
A Prayer for Owen Meany

Frank McCourt
Angela's Ashes

Jack Schaefer
Shane

Kay Gibbons
Ellen Foster

Kurt Vonnegut
Cat's Cradle

Tom Wolfe
The Right Stuff

Truman Capote
In Cold Blood

David McCullough
1776

Jim Murphy
An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic

Philip Caputo

10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War

Eric Schlosser

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal

Rick Bowers

Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement

Fred Israel

Meet the Amish

Dalton Trumbo

Johnny Got His Gun

Stephen Chbosky

Perks of Being a Wallflower

Kathryn Stockett

The Help

Sue Monk Kidd

The Secret Life of Bees

Octavia Butler

Kindred

Newt Gingrich and William Forstchen

Victory at Yorktown

Pam Bachorz

Drought

James Patterson

NYPD Red

Richard Yates

Revolutionary Road

Solomon Northrup

Twelve Years a Slave

Grade 12 (incoming seniors)

Margaret Atwood

The Handmaid's Tale

Daniel Defoe
Robinson Crusoe

Charles Dickens
A Tale of Two Cities (Unabridged)

Laura Esquivel
Like Water for Chocolate

Nathaniel Philbrick
In the Heart of the Sea

Ken Follett
The Pillars of the Earth

Susanna Kaysen
Girl, Interrupted

Bernard Malamud
The Natural

Gabriel Garcia Marquez
One Hundred Years of Solitude

Herman Melville
Billy Budd, Sailor

Frank Norris
Vandover and the Brute

Philip Pullman
His Dark Materials (series)

Salman Rushdie
Midnight's Children

Tom Stoppard
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

John Kennedy Toole
A Confederacy of Dunces

Clive Gifford
Spies

Chris Crowe
Up Close: Thurgood Marshall

John F. Wikovits
Life as a POW

Jeanette Farrell
Invisible Enemies: Stories of Infectious Disease

Lila Perl
The Ancient Maya

Donna Jackson
Phenomena: Secrets of the Senses

Carl Hoffman
Savage Harvest: A Tale of Cannibals, Colonialism, and Michael Rockefeller's Tragic Quest for Primitive Art

George Martin
A Song of Ice and Fire Series

Stephen Hawking
A Briefer History of Time

Jared Diamond
Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies

Kelly Barth
Snakes