

Summer Reading List

DIRECTIONS: "Pick **ONE** of the following books to read this summer, and then, for a major grade, be ready to complete **a project on the novel** the first week of school."

An Abundance of Katherines by John Green

This is a classic John Green adventure about two friends, Colin and Hassan, who decide to go on a summer road trip right after graduating from high school. Their adventure leads them to a small town in Tennessee where they are offered summer jobs gathering stories from local residents. As the summer progresses, the boys make new friends, experience romance, realize the importance of friendship and have some insight into their futures.

Beautiful Creatures by Margaret Stohl and Kami Garcia (Book 1 of 4)

Ethan and Lena are teenagers who live in the small town of Gatlin, South Carolina. They realize they have a telepathic connection and this evolves into a strong relationship which their family members oppose. Lena comes from a family with supernatural powers and, on her sixteenth birthday, she must make a difficult choice that could result in the deaths of people she loves.

Divergent by Veronica Roth and Nicolas Delort

Divergent is a novel set in a dystopian future world. The ruling leadership in this world controls every aspect of the lives of the inhabitants and people are forced to live within one of the five selected factions that are required to perform a pre-determined role in the society. Beatrice is a sixteen-year-old member of the Abnegation faction and she has been raised to be completely selfless, but now it is time for her to take an aptitude test that will direct her destiny into one of the factions, which might not be Abnegation. This is the story of coming-of-age in a dangerous world filled with the unknown.

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowel

A bi-racial boy (Asian and White) lives in Omaha, Nebraska. The year is 1986 and Park is 16. His family is loving and supportive and he is growing up with the usual struggles trying to "fit in." Park meets and makes friends with a girl, Eleanor, who is not as fortunate as Park. Eleanor's home life is a story of neglect, a violent, dangerous step-father and bullies at school. This novel is the story of an unlikely friendship leading to an escape to a safe place for Eleanor.

Everyday by David Levithan

This novel has supernatural overtones as it explores the life of A, a being who survives by inhabiting the body of a different person every day. Things get complicated when A falls in love with a girl, Rhiannon. Since A inhabits a different body every day, he must find ways to continue their relationship but it is difficult at best and impossible at worst. A figures out a way to make Rhiannon happy even though it is not with him. Everyday examines the struggles associated with finding and developing positive relationships.

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden

This novel is set in Japan during the early 20th century and tells the story of Chiyo who, after some family tragedies, must learn to be a Geisha, a traditional entertainer and hostess to men. The story documents Chiyo's training as a musician, dancer and ceremonial hostess. While Chiyo's life is one that she did not choose, she learns to accept her role, but she does have her own mind and her own desires.

Night by Elie Wiesel

Night is set in 1944 in Nazi territory in Europe and it is the story of Elie Wiesel, 12, and his experiences at the hands of his Nazi captors. This is the sad and meaningful record of how a young boy sees too much, questions his religion and lives through the horrific experience as a prisoner of the Nazis during World War II. It is a classic novel that has been read by millions of readers.

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

This novel, set in Germany during WWII, tells the story of Liesel Mamingier, a young girl who endures a variety of family tragedies, poverty and social injustice. Amidst these challenges, Liesel discovers comfort from reading books, but, due to her poverty, she must resort to stealing them. Ultimately, The Book Thief is a story of how hope can survive in the hearts and minds of people living within the most challenging of human conditions.

The Fault in our Stars by John Green

Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters meet at a church support group for cancer survivors and, from the first day, Hazel and Augustus become close friends. It is the story of two teenagers who, because of their serious medical problems, must grow up quickly. The plot documents the development of their relationship within a variety of adventures.

The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown

This mystery/adventure novel, set in Washington D.C., leads an unsuspecting professor, Robert Langdon, through a variety of situations involving the CIA, ancient mysteries, secrets of the Masons, and double crossers in a life and death search for information that will determine the winner in a battle between good and evil.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

This is the story of Thomas, who at 16, is transported to an unknown place inhabited by other teenagers. Thomas has forgotten about his former life, his family and where he came from but he knows he wants to return. His new life is full of dangerous and sinister social rules and when Thomas makes friends with Teresa, a new arrival, they work together to escape their nightmare existence.

Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan

The unique design of this novel showcases the lives of two boys, both named Will Grayson, both living in the suburbs of Chicago and both experience all the frustrations of typical teenagers, including struggles with sexuality. John Green writes the story of Will Grayson in the odd numbered chapters, while David Levithan writes the story of will grayson (lower case intended) in the even numbered chapters. Will Grayson decides to live his life by two rules: 1. Don't care too much; and 2. Shut up. The main turning point in the story happens when Will and will meet in Chicago.

Wonder by R. J. Palacio (Soon to be a movie with Julia Roberts!)

Wonder by R. J. Palacio is a novel about the power of friendship. The main character is a boy named August who was born with a deformed face. During the first part of his life, August is home-schooled, but after many surgeries, he is finally allowed to attend public school. The plot explores the ups and downs of August's life: meeting new people, making friends, getting bullied and learning how to navigate his new social world.