



Please read three books from this list during the summer. One of the three texts must be the required book listed below for your grade level. You can then choose the other two from this list. As you select your own texts, please note that some books may have mature themes; your parent/guardian is always the best judge of what is appropriate for your independent reading. Enjoy!

**Required Summer Text:**

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk      ***Grandpa Was a Cowboy and an Indian and Other Stories***

This text will be distributed in school along with a required study guide. Students should complete this short collection with the study guide in August. New students can either come by the school to pick up both items or call/email to request to have them mailed to you if you are not in the area.

**Selected Summer Text List:**

**Adventure—Fiction**

Cornwall, Autumn

***Carpe Diem***

Vassar's hippie grandmother somehow blackmails her Type A parents into letting her take Vassar backpacking through Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos. Cancelling her summer AP courses Vassar hikes through jungles, becomes infatuated with an Asian cowboy chaperone, and battles venom-carrying critters. The more humiliations Vassar endures, the more likable she becomes.

De Saint-Exupery, Antoine

***Airman's Odyssey***

Three classic adventure stories, reminders of both the romance and the reality of the pioneer era of aviation in South America, North Africa and war torn Europe.

Higgins, Jack

***Sharp Shot***

British twins Rich and Jade Chance are back for a third adventure with their spy father as they try to save the Middle East and the President of the United States from a terrorist government coup.

Kipling, Rudyard

***Kim***

Nobel Prize-winning author Rudyard Kipling set his final and most famous novel in India, where an Irish orphan becomes the disciple of a Tibetan monk while learning espionage tactics from the British secret service. This is an exotic tale of adventure.

Klass, David

***Firestorm***

After learning that he has been sent from the future for a special purpose, Jack receives help from an unusual dog and a shape-shifting female fighter.

Pratchett, Terry

***Nation***

Worlds are destroyed and cultures collide when a tsunami hits islands in the ocean. The survivors are Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village, their lives, and a new civilization that is deeply humane. Lots of humor, cannibals, and likeable characters in this book.

Shahan, Sherry

***Death Mountain***

While traveling to visit the mother she has not heard from in almost a year Erin and another teenage girl become lost in the rugged Sierra Nevada mountains and must struggle for six days to survive.

Smith, Roland

***Elephant Run***

A read filled with intrigue, danger, and suspense. As bombs fall on London, 14-year-old Nick is sent to Burma to live with his father on their teak plantation. Unforeseen in this plan is the invasion that puts him and the locals under Japanese rule. Escape through the jungle, with the help of a well-respected monk and great-grandfather and Nick's new friend Mya, is the only way out.

Verne, Jules

***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (William J. Miller translation: Naval Institute Press, 1993)**

The "man who invented the future," Verne created the prototype for modern science fiction and is a master storyteller. His prophetic 1870 adventure novel, featuring a bizarre underwater craft commanded by the mysterious Captain Nemo, predated the submarine. This edition is newly translated from the 1870 French version and includes copies of the illustrations restored from the original.

## Contemporary Life--Fiction

Abdel-Fattah, Randa

***Does My Head Look Big in This?***

Australian 11th-grader Amal is smart, funny, outspoken, a good student, and a loyal friend. She is also a devout Muslim who decides to wear the hijab, or head covering, full-time. The story tells of her emotional and spiritual journey as she copes with a mad crush on a boy, befriends an elderly Greek neighbor, and tries to help a friend.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi

***Purple Hibiscus: A Novel***

When Nigeria begins to fall apart under a military coup, 15-year old Kambili is sent to stay with her aunt, a University professor, whose house is noisy and full of laughter. There, Kambili and her brother discover a life and love beyond the confines of their father's brutal and religiously strict authority.

Alvarez, Julia

***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents***

It's a long way from Santo Domingo to the Bronx, but if anyone can go the distance, it's the Garcia girls. Four lively latinas plunged from a pampered life of privilege on an island compound into the big-city chaos of New York where they rebel against Mami and Papi's old-world discipline and embrace all that America has to offer.

Asher, Jay

***Thirteen Reasons Why: A Novel***

Clay receives a box in the mail with seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah, who committed suicide. He spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death. Although the story is serious and sometimes disturbing, it is not somber, and conveys a strong message of how small betrayals and secrets can have harmful consequences.

Cheva, Cherry

***Duplikate: A Novel***

When she wakes up one morning to find her double has magically appeared from her Sims-like computer game in her room, Kate, already overburdened with homework, finals, and extracurricular activities, decides to put her to work.

Cisneros, Sandra

***The House on Mango Street***

For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness.

Crutcher, Chris

***Whale Talk***

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Forman, Gayle

***If I Stay: A Novel***

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

Howe, James

***Totally Joe***

As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography--life from A to Z--and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.

Lockhart, E.

***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks***

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

Logsted, Greg

***Alibi Junior High***

After thirteen-year-old Cody and his father, an undercover agent, are nearly killed, Cody moves in with his aunt in Connecticut, where he is helped with his adjustment to public school for the first time and investigating a threat in the nearby woods.

Lipsyte, Robert

***The Contender***

Legendary sports reporter Lipsyte writes a riveting story of a Harlem high school dropout who escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym. Just getting to the gym is challenging, and Alfred learns that being a good boxer is hard and often discouraging work. He also learns that before being a champion he must be a contender.

Mass, Wendy

***A Mango-Shaped Space***

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the loss of something important to her.

Myers, Walter Dean

***Slam!***

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

Namioka, Lensey

***April and the Dragon Lady***

April Chen, high-school junior, lives in Seattle with her widowed father; her brother, Harry; and her Grandma, the "Dragon Lady." The conflict between April and her grandmother, interwoven with several subplots, forms a complex but very readable novel. April must contend with her family's disapproval of her Caucasian boyfriend. She also struggles with the constraints of her traditional female role, especially since her brother is indulged and enjoys total freedom.

Pearson, Mary

***The Miles Between***

Four teens escape boarding school for a day when 17-year-old Destiny Faraday happens upon a pink convertible with the key in the ignition. Themes of lurking secrets, the supernatural, joy, and the affirming power of friendship make this book a superb read.

Sonnenblick, Jordan

***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie***

Steven plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece.

Westerfeld, Scott

***So Yesterday***

Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by corporations to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with girlfriend Jen's creative talents to find a missing person and thwart a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture.

## Historical Fiction

Anderson, Laurie

***Fever 1793 or Chains***

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic and the fight to stay alive.

(Chains) After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

Bagdasarian, Adam

***The Forgotten Fire***

Powerful and horrifying story of a privileged boy, 12-year old Vahan, who loses his family and home in the Armenian holocaust. Vahan's story of survival is a brutal, but beautifully told, account of the Turkish genocide of Armenians.

Crane, Stephen

***Red Badge of Courage***

In the spring of 1863, while engaged in the fierce battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.

Greene, Betty

***The Summer of My German Soldier***

When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship. When their forbidden relationship is discovered, will Patty risk her family and town for the understanding and love of one boy?

Hopkinson, Deborah

***Into the Firestorm: a Novel of San Francisco, 1908***

Days after arriving in San Francisco from Texas, eleven-year-old orphan Nicholas Dray tries to help his new neighbors survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and the subsequent fires.

Kadohata, Cynthia

***Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam***

When Rick Hanski enlists in the army, he intends to "whip the world," but he soon finds out that he can't do it alone. As a dog handler, he relies on Cracker, a sharp-minded German shepherd to protect him from danger and be a companion during his tour of duty in Vietnam.

Kidd, Sue Monk

***The Secret Life of Bees***

Set in the early 60's rural South Carolina, fourteen-year-old Lily Owens and her father's housekeeper set off on a seemingly aimless pilgrimage that ends at the home of a trio of eccentric bee-keeping sisters. The lessons Lily learned during her odyssey into the world of bees and their "secret life" are universal and everlasting.

Larson, Kirby

***Hattie Big Sky***

What dreams would lead a 16-year-old to leave her safe home in Iowa in 1918 and take a chance on a homestead claim in Montana? Full of optimism and determination, Hattie receives her Uncle Chester's land claim, the house and its contents, one horse, and one cow. She soon learns that she has 10 months to cultivate 40 acres and set 480 rods of fence, or lose the claim. While the story relates the hardships of frontier life (in the days of the Model T Ford—not covered wagons) and how Hattie "proved up" to the challenge, it also tells of World War I bigotry and discrimination toward German Americans.

Rostoff, Meg

***How I Live Now***

New Yorker Daisy is shipped off to cousins in England during a futuristic war. The cousins spend a dreamlike, sun-filled summer together against the backdrop of looming war and occupation. While waiting for her aunt to return from Norway Daisy enjoys a special, telepathic friendship with cousin Edmund.

Swanson, James L.

***Chasing Lincoln's Killer***

A fast-paced account of the assassination of the sixteenth president and the gripping 12-day hunt for John Wilkes Booth and his fellow conspirators that followed.

## **Mystery—Fiction**

Avi

***The Man Who Was Poe***

In Providence, R.I., in 1848, Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of eleven-year-old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a ghastly final twist.

Feinstein, John

***Cover-up***

Fledgling fourteen-year-old sports reporters, Susan Carol and Stevie, investigate suspicious activities at the Super Bowl after Stevie gets fired from his co-anchor job on a ground-breaking teen sports show.

Hiaasen, Carl

***Scat***

During a field trip to Black Vine Swamp, a suspicious "wildfire" breaks out, and much-feared and -reviled science teacher Mrs. Starch vanishes. The school gets a letter stating she is away on a "family emergency," but no one believes that.

Korman, Gordon

***Jake, Reinvented***

Rick becomes friends with the popular new boy, Jake Garrett, football player and host of superlative parties, and in the process discovers the true nature of his schoolmates and uncovers the mystery of Jake's past.

Pullman, Philip

***Ruby in the Smoke***

In search of clues to solve the puzzle of her father's death, 16-year-old Sally Lockart ventures into the shadowy underworld of Victorian London and becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby.

Sturman, Jennifer

***And Then Everything Unraveled***

Delia's life has just been turned upside down. Her mom has mysteriously vanished, and California-bred Delia is shipped off to a strange new world: New York City. She knows her mom is way too organized to fall off the face of the earth. Although Delia is determined to get to the bottom of her disappearance, she learns that some secrets—especially the dangerous ones—were never meant to be unraveled.

Westerfeld, Scott

***So Yesterday***

Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by corporations to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with girlfriend Jen's creative talents to find a missing person and thwart a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture.

## **Science Fiction/Fantasy**

Anderson, M. T.

***Feed***

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, and teens travel to the moon for spring break, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

Atwater-Rhodes, A.

***Hawksong***

In this engaging fantasy, Danica Shardae is an avian shapeshifter. She is a princess of her people who, like the birds they become, is reserved and disciplined, yet full of passion. In a land that has been at war so long that no one remembers the reason for fighting, the shapeshifters who rule the two factions agree to marry in the hope of bringing peace, despite deep-seated fear and distrust of each other.

Bradbury, Ray

***Fahrenheit 451***

In a future time when government policy decrees that all books must be burned, a few courageous individuals memorize as many books as possible.

Card, Orson Scott

***Ender's Game***

A veteran of years of simulated war games, Ender believes he is engaged in one more computer war game when the truth is he is commanding the last fleet of Earth against an alien race seeking the complete destruction of Earth.

Collins, Suzanne

***Hunger Games***

In this futuristic story, reality TV broadcasts the annual fight for survival on dangerous terrain among teens chosen from each district. Food is scarce and the winner brings wealth and fame to his or her district.

Farley, Terri

***Seven Tears into the Sea***

Gwen returns to her grandmother's inn for a summer job and falls for exotic wanderer Jesse, despite the warnings of her clairvoyant grandmother. She finds herself immersed in a modern, California version of a Scottish myth.

Le Guin, Ursula K.

***Voices***

Young Memer feels relatively safe in the hidden library of her home and with the library's secret Oracle--even while her homeland is still captive to foreign armies and their oppressive regime. It is only when Orrec the poet and storyteller and his wife Gry visit the city that events catalyze to begin ending the occupation and to shed light on the prominence of Memer's extended family.

Lloyd, Saci

***The Carbon Diaries 2015***

Lloyd Laura copes with limits on food, travel, cell phone time, and practice time with her band in the first year of carbon rationing in 2015. Although this is an eco-thriller about global climate crises, it's also about normal life, colorful and supportive neighbors, and the success of Laura's band.

Nix, Garth

***Sabriel***

When a dangerous necromancer threatens to unleash a long-buried evil, Lirael and Prince Sameth are drawn into a battle to save the Old Kingdom and reveal their true destinies.

Patterson, James

***The Angel Experiment (Maximum Ride series)***

The mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group and the "birdkids," -- a result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Pearson, Mary E.

***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Pierce, Tamora

***Terrier***

When sixteen-year-old Beka becomes "Puppy" to a pair of "Dogs," as the Provost's Guards are called, she uses her police training, natural abilities, and a touch of magic to help them solve the case of a murdered baby in Tortall's Lower City.

Shelley, Mary

***Frankenstein***

A Gothic thriller, a passionate romance, and a cautionary tale about the dangers of science, *Frankenstein* tells the story of committed science student Victor Frankenstein, who assembles a human being from stolen body parts.

Tolkien, J.R.R.

***The Hobbit***

Whisked away from his comfortable, unambitious life in his hobbit-hole by Gandalf, the wizard, and a company of dwarves, Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon.

Turner, Megan Whalen

***The Thief***

Gen is a talented and clever thief who is dragged from his prison cell by the king's magus. He joins magus on a quest--a hunt for a prize wrought by the gods that creates a ruler from anyone who wears it. Look for a very unexpected ending in this award-winning book.

Twain, Mark

***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court***

Hank Morgan, a skilled mechanic in a nineteenth-century New England arms factory, is struck on the head during a quarrel and awakens to find himself among the knights and magicians of King Arthur's Camelot. What follows is a culture clash as practical-minded Hank, disgusted with the ignorance and superstition of the people, decides to enlighten them with education and technology.

Westerfeld, Scott

***Leviathan or The Uglies***

(Leviathan) Deryn Sharp trains to be an airman with the British Air Service, hoping that no one discovers she is a girl. She serves on the *Leviathan*, a massive biological airship. When it crashes in Switzerland the two teens, Deryn and Prince Aleksandar, cross paths, and suddenly the line between enemy and ally is no longer clear.

(Uglies) In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there. But Tally's new friend, Shay, runs away to escape the pretty world, Tally must decide to find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all.

## **Other Fiction, Nonfiction, Biography**

Alsenas, Linas

***Gay America: Struggle for Equality***

An examination of gay and lesbian life in the United States since the colonial period that discusses the Kinsey study, the McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950s, the Beat generation, gay marriage, and other related topics.

Alvarez, Julia

***Once Upon a Quinceañera: Coming of Age in the USA***

Explores a Latina girl's coming of age ceremony, discussing the origins and cultural importance of a quinceañera.

Cather, Willa

***My Antonia***

At the age of ten, Cather moved with her family from Virginia to a Nebraska ranch where she grew up among the immigrants from Europe that were homesteading on the Great Plains. *My Antonia* is Cather's portrait of a remembered American girlhood: her hardships and difficulties as well as her search for happiness are the themes of this novel.

Gaines, Ernest

***Bloodline (short stories, especially The Sky is Gray)***

In these five stories, Gaines returns to the cane fields, sharecroppers' shacks, and decaying plantation houses of Louisiana to weave stories haunted by cruelty, suffering, and courage.

Gould, Stephen Jay

***The Panda's Thumb: More Reflections in Natural History***

Were dinosaurs really dumber than lizards? Why are roughly the same number of men and women born? What do the panda's magical "thumb" and the sea turtle's perilous migration tell us about imperfections that prove the evolutionary rule? "These questions of life lie on a continuum that touches us all. Seldom have their mysteries been explained with such wit, beauty and elegance."

Johnson, George

***The Ten Most Beautiful Experiments***

Tells the stories of ten of the most fascinating experiments in the history of science, looking at the work of Galileo, William Harvey, Isaac Newton, Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, Luigi Galvani, Michael Faraday, James Joule, A.A. Michelson, Ivan Pavlov, and Robert Millikan.

LeGuin, Ursula

***Very Far Away from Anywhere Else***

Seventeen-year-old Owen Griffiths learns to find his own way to a future in science through a friendship with a girl whose life is dedicated to music.

Lopez, Barry

***Crossing Open Ground***

In traveling through the American Southwest and Alaska, Lopez finds new, once hidden, meanings in natural phenomenon--flocks of geese and Arctic fox tracks--and remnants of lost human cultures. The land and humans, he concludes, share a strong spiritual bond that echoes and impacts the universe's great rhyme of life.

Obama, Barack

***Dreams from My Father***

Barack Obama tells the story of his life as the son of a black African father and a white American mother, searching for a workable meaning to his life as an African American.

Pepperberg, Irene

***Alex and Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Discovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence***

Pepperberg discusses her relationship with Alex, an African grey parrot she worked with for over 30 years, telling of the discoveries she made about animal minds through her studies, and sharing stories of the emotional bond she formed with Alex.

Potok, Chaim

***The Chosen***

*The Chosen* chronicles the friendship between Danny Saunders, a boy from a Hasidic family, and the more assimilated Reuven Malter, as they come of age in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Stark, Peter

***Last Breath: The Limits of Adventure***

Presents short stories in which adventurers find themselves on the brink of death from hypothermia, drowning, mountain sickness, avalanche, scurvy, heatstroke, falling, predators, the bends, and dehydration—all fascinating in descriptions of how the physical body copes with trauma and stress.

Steinbeck, John

***Of Mice and Men***

The story of the complex bond between two migrant laborers in Central California. They are George Milton and Lennie Small, itinerant ranch hands who dream of one day owning a small farm. George acts as a father figure to Lennie, who is a very large, simpleminded man, calming him and helping to reign in his immense physical strength.

Todd, Mark & Watson,  
Esther Pearl

***Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine? The Art of Making Zines and Mini Comics***

A collection of tips and tricks from contributors designed for anyone who wants to create their own zine, a handmade magazine or mini-comic about favorite bands, personal stories, subcultures, or collections.

Walsh, Marissa

***Does This Book Make Me Look Fat?***

Short stories, poems, and essays about body image, self-esteem, diets, eating disorders, relationships, fashion magazines, and more, with book, movie, and music recommendations.