

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT 2007

GRADE 9

Two books are required. At least one has to be from your grade level.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Missouri Boy by Leland Myrick

Myrick talks about his life growing up in a small town. He shares his memories of seeing death close up, skinny-dipping in a pond in the woods and his attempts at romance. At the end, he travels to California by motorcycle leaving Missouri and his childhood behind. This is a good example of a graphic novel.

SCIENCE FICTION

DRAGONBOOK 2: Dragon and Soldier by Timothy Zahn

Nominated for 2005 Teens' Top Ten Books

Fourteen-year-old Jack, who is the human host in a symbiotic relationship with a dragon warrior named Draycos, joins a mercenary outfit to uncover who is behind a vast conspiracy to wipe out Drayco's race.

FICTION

The Other Side of Truth by Beverley Naidoo

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London where their uncle fails to meet them at the airport. They are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria.

[Reader Review] "When you read this story it's like you have mystery and a lot of conflicts put all together. The book makes you want to keep reading without stopping all the way to the end."

The Enemy Has a Face by Gloria Miklowitz

Fourteen-year-old Netta Hofman wakes one morning to find that her older brother did not come home the night before. Having just moved from Israel to Los Angeles, the family of seventeen-year-old Adam is stunned and baffled by his disappearance. When Netta makes a new and unlikely friend at school, an Arab boy named Laith, she begins addressing issues of prejudice – her classmates' prejudice against foreign students, her own prejudice against Palestinians, and her family's growing suspicion that Palestinian hatred of Israelis is behind Adam's disappearance. In this thoughtful and suspenseful book, the author explores issues of Middle Eastern relationships through the eyes of young people on both sides of the age-old conflict. The surprising conclusion will leave readers with a renewed understanding of other people's needs, fears and beliefs. (CBC Magazine)

Kissing Doorknobs by Terry Spencer Hesser

Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends. Through Tara's first person narrative, Hesser compellingly expresses both the anguish and the dark humor of the heroine's obsessive-compulsive disorder (identified near the end of the book, when she begins therapy). At times descriptions of her entrapment are so vivid and intense that readers may need to come up for air. (Publishers Weekly)

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT 2007

GRADE 10

Two books are required. At least one has to be from your grade level.

NONFICTION

Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America by Steve Almond

A self-professed candyfreak set out in search of a much-loved candy from his childhood and found himself on a tour of the small candy companies that are persevering in a marketplace where big corporations dominate.

[Reader Review] "Mr. Almond (so appropriately named) provides the great American travelogue, rummaging through a traditionally family-run, secretive industry to find the treats of his youth. Almond has a few Wonka-esque experiences which even Roald Dahl would find challenging. What he does to find his favorite brands is a hoot because he has to lift up the veil of secrecy and peek between the curtains. A very short read – but a very good read!"

FANTASY

Nominated for the 2005 Teens' Top Ten Books

Naming: The First Book of Pellinor by Allison Croggon

Maerad doesn't yet know she has inherited a powerful gift, one that enables her to see the world as no other can. It is only when she is discovered by Cadvan, one of the great Bards of Lirigon, that her true identity and extraordinary destiny unfold. Now she and her mysterious teacher must embark on a treacherous, uncertain journey through a time and place where the forces of darkness wield an otherworldly terror.

[Reader Review] "It's an adventure in the midst of a battle between light and dark; magic against magic."

REALISTIC FICTION

Nominated for the 2005 Teens' Top Ten Books

The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen...author of *Dreamland*

The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.

[Reader Review] "This book makes you take a critical look at your own fears – look inside yourself and change the thing you don't like."

FICTION

Nancy Drew Graphic Novel Volume 1: The Demon of River Heights by Stefan Petrucha

Nancy makes her debut in a horror film concerning a monstrous River Heights urban legend – but is it really an urban legend, or does the River Heights Demon truly exist? And will Nancy, Bess, and George live long enough to find out?

Hardy Boys Graphic Novel Volume 4: The Malled by Daniel Renden

After finishing a case, things seem to quiet down when ATAC sends Frank and Joe undercover to investigate a new mall opening in Bayport because of several suspicious accidents there. But things get exciting when the night before the big opening, Joe, Frank, and seven others are mysteriously locked in the mall--with a murderer on the loose. In there everything that could go horribly wrong in a mall, does: a flood caused by water beds, an electrocution at an electronics shop, a bow and arrow used to kill in the sporting goods store, a runaway elevator, a damsel in distress in the dress shop, fire in the food court and much, much more.

Bridesmaid by Hailey Abbott

After years of watching couples come to blows over ice sculptures, Abby and Carol want no part of the family business. Abby would rather spend weekends kicking a soccer ball or antagonizing Noah, the cute son of a famous pastry chef. After helping their parents with these events all their lives, the girls know weddings make ordinary women turn into Bridezillas, and they've vowed to never get married. Then Abby's barely legal sister, Carol, does the unthinkable. She announces she's getting married and wants Abby to be her maid of honor. Clearly, Carol has lost her mind!

Night Kites by M.E Kerr

What do you do when your best friend's girlfriend makes a pass at you? Erick Rudd isn't sure how it happened – he did nothing but look. It was Nicki who made the first move. And if that doesn't complicate things enough, Erick is about to get some news that will blow his safe world apart: Pete, his older brother and idol, has full blown AIDS.

[Reader Review] "AMAZING!!!!!! *Night Kites* was an amazing and intriguing book about a young man and his dealings in living with AIDS. This is a perfect telling of what is such a horrible experience. With suspense and a cunning edge, Kerr has done it again!

Night Kites must be one of the best books ever written. I highly recommend it!"

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT 2007

GRADE 11

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FANTASY

Clovermead by David Randall

Nominated for the 2005 Teens' Top Ten Books

Clovermead, twelve-year-old tomboy, learns that her father has been lying about the past and that the truth may be the key to ending the epic battle raging between the followers of Lord Ursus and those of Lady Moon.

[Reader Review] "Combining bone-chilling moments and a bit of humor, this book is utterly amazing."

MYSTERY

Misfits, Inc. No. 6: Hit and Run by Mark Delaney

Meet the Misfits, a secret society of high school outcasts dedicated to solving mysteries that no one else can: Peter the genius, Jake the athlete, Eugenia "Byte" the computer whiz and Mattie the magician. The Misfits band together to solve another exciting mystery. What appears at first to be a routine hit-and-run investigation is revealed to be a dangerous web of gangs, revenge and car theft.

The case becomes both personal and uncomfortable for Mattie, who faces an unwelcome reunion with the mother she hasn't seen in years. While Byte, Peter and Jake work to stop an innocent woman from going to jail, Mattie learns an important lesson in forgiveness. (CBC Magazine)

COMEDY FICTION

All's Fair in Love, War and High School by Janette Rallison

When head cheerleader Samantha Taylor does poorly on the SAT exam, she determines that her only hope for college admission is to win the election for student body president, but her razor wit and acid tongue make her better suited to dishing out insults than winning votes.

[Reader Review] "THIS IS THE GREATEST BOOK EVER!!! This book was so interesting that I read it over five times! It's one of those books that you can't put down. I was never bored, and I was always wondering. This book is a great book to read because it was a story about how she found love. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves love stories."

"This book was not very long, but it had a lot of surprises in it."

FICTION

Looking for Alaska by John Green

Miles has a quirky interest in famous people's last words, especially François Rabelais's final statement, "I go to seek a Great Perhaps." Determined not to wait for death to begin a similar quest, Miles convinces his parents to let him leave home. Once settled at Culver Creek Preparatory School, he befriends a couple of equally gifted outcasts: his roommate Chip -- commonly known as the Colonel -- who has a predilection for memorizing long, alphabetical lists for fun; and the beautiful and unpredictable Alaska, whom Miles comes to adore.

The kids grow closer as they make their way through a school year filled with contraband tests, pranks, breakups, and revelations about family and life. But as the story hurtles toward its shattering climax, chapter headings like "forty-six days before" and "the last day" portend a tragic event -- one that will change Miles forever and lead him to new conclusions about the value of his cherished "Great Perhaps."

[Reader Review] "**Awesome!!!** This book was amazing. It made me think about things that I have never thought about. It gave me chills because it was sooo good. I recommend this to anyone."

Backwater by Joan Bauer

While compiling a genealogy of her family of successful attorneys, sixteen-year-old history buff Ivy Breedlove treks into the mountain wilderness to interview a reclusive aunt with whom she identifies and who in turn helps her to truly know herself and her family.

[Reader Review] "**This was a great book.** I really liked this book not only because it had a good and captivating plot but also because of many great quotes and hidden messages. It's a really great book about finding the missing piece, dealing with your surroundings and finding inner strength."

SCIENCE FICTION

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license -- for turning pretty. 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. But Tally's friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world -- and it isn't so pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in or never turn pretty at all.

[Reader Review] " I bought *Uglies* and read it the night I got it. I started at around 7 and stayed up until I finished it at 1:30! I definitely recommend it to everyone, and I am looking forward to the next two books in the series, *Pretties* and *Specials*."

NONFICTION

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

Fast food has hastened the malling of our landscape, widened the chasm between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad. That's a lengthy list of charges, but here Eric Schlosser makes them stick with an artful mix of first-rate reportage, wry wit, and careful reasoning.

Also suggested: *A Lesson Before Dying*- Gaines, *StarGirl*- Spinelli, *Fallen Angels*- Myers

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT 2007 GRADE 12

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SHORT STORIES

Black Juice by Margo Lanagan

Best Collection World Fantasy Award for 2005!

Provides glimpses of the dark side of civilization and the beauty of the human spirit through ten short stories that explore significant moments in people's lives, events leading to them, and their consequences.

MYSTERY

As Simple As Snow by Gregory Galloway

Anna-who prefers to be called Anastasia-is a slightly spooky and complicated high school girl. She spends much of her time writing obituaries for every living person in town. She is unlike anyone the narrator has ever known, and they make an unlikely, though happy, pair. Then a week before Valentine's Day, Anna disappears, leaving behind only a dress placed neatly near a hole in the frozen river and a string of unanswered questions. Desperate to find her, the narrator begins to reconstruct the past five months and soon the fragments of curious events, intimate conversations, secrets, and peculiar letters coalesce into haunting and surprising revelations that may implicate friends, relatives, and even Anna herself.

TRUE STORY

Hole in my life by Jack Gantos

The author explains, "I wrote the book because I made mistakes, paid my dues, recovered and moved on to succeed at what I had always wanted to do-write books." This story, which the author calls "a violation-to-redemption personal journey," is a compelling and intimate firsthand account of his experience with drugs, prison and his drive to become an author-a dream that began to take shape at a young age and was not deterred during his trying experience in prison. (CBC Magazine)

FANTASY

Abarat Book 2: Days of Magic, Nights of War by Clive Barker

With more than 100 lavish full-color illustrations and a magical fantasy, the second installment of Clive Barker's four-part Abarat series lives up to every expectation. Excitement never slackens as Candy Quackenbush continues her feverish flight through the islands of Abarat with the fiendish Lord of Midnight in hot pursuit. (Barnes and Noble)

[Reader Review] "The books of Abarat are among the most underrated fantasy stories currently in print. They introduce us to a most vivid imagined world of wonders, visions, monsters (humanoid and alien like but NOT alien in the E.T sense of the word!!), wizards, dragons and much, much more."

FICTION

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

"I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975." So begins *The Kite Runner*, a poignant tale of two motherless boys growing up in Kabul, a city teetering on the brink of destruction at the dawn of the Soviet invasion. Despite their class differences, Amir, the son of a wealthy businessman, and Hassan, his devoted sidekick and the son of Amir's household servant, play together, cause mischief together, and compete in the annual kite-fighting tournament. But one day, Amir betrays Hassan, and his betrayal grows increasingly devastating as their tale continues. Amir will spend much of his life coming to terms with his initial and subsequent acts of cowardice, and finally seek to make reparations. Hosseini's depiction of the cruelty children suffer at the hands of their "friends" will break your heart. (Barnes and Noble)

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Known for writing novels with provocative themes centered on family conflict and difficult moral choices, Jodi Picoult presents the story of a child whose sole reason for existence is to assure a genetic match for her terminally ill sibling. Conceived in vitro, 13-year-old Anna Fitzgerald has decided to sue her parents to stop them from using her as "spare parts" for her older sister, Kate, who suffers from leukemia. After years of having her bone marrow and blood used to keep Kate alive, Anna now refuses to donate a kidney and strives for her own personal freedom. She hires lawyer Campbell Alexander to represent her, even as her own mother, a former civil defense attorney, fights her in court. The complex and emotionally wrenching narrative unfolds from the alternating perspectives of a large cast of intriguing and likable characters.

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

This novel tells the story of two people destined to be together: Clare, a perfectly normal woman, and Henry, a time-traveler. According to the unique rules that Niffenegger creates, Henry travels unexpectedly and mostly to his own past, often when he is "all stressed out and [has] lost his grip on now." But the real story of the book is the lifelong love Clare and Henry share as they try to make the most of the times they have together -- the times when Henry is not traveling.

Donorboy by Brendan Halpin

Alex Award Book

Rosalind had two mommies. Now, thanks to a tragic accident involving foodstuffs, she has none. And Sean, the sperm donor responsible for half her DNA (and nothing else), is taking custody. She's an orphan with a new father, surrounded by friends she is beginning to despise and well-meaning adults who succeed only in annoying her. Told entirely through e-mail, instant messaging, journal entries and other random communications, *Donorboy* is the comic, compellingly readable novel of how two people learn to converse, cook, write heavy-metal songs and nail windows shut on their way to becoming a family.

Dancing in Red Shoes Will Kill You by Dorian Cirrone

Kayla Calloway is a junior at Florida Arts High School, or "Farts" as it is called by its students. Her passion is ballet, but she is never picked for the good parts in any of the school performances because Kayla does not have a ballerina's body. Between the neck and waist she has the body of Dolly Parton. This book explores the issues of peer pressure, conformity, becoming comfortable with self, and keeping a sense of humor when life hands you curves.