

2011 Summer Reading List

High School and Middle School

THE PURPOSE OF SUMMER IS TO HAVE FUN. It's summer; it's ok to give your brain a little bit of a break. Not even English teachers read "English books" over summer vacation. The philosophy of TCS towards summer reading is that it's a time not to sharpen reading and analysis skills but to keep them from getting rusty from neglect. To that end, we *strongly* suggest that you help your teen choose books that are **BELOW** (not at or above) his or her Lexile reading level. You can find his or her Lexile reading level score on his or her Stanford testing reports. You can find the Lexile reading level of each title on the list by going to this website: <http://www.lexile.com/findabook/> then clicking on "Find a Book" at the bottom of the screen. Since your teen has a single Lexile score given (from your Stanford testing report), click "My reader has a single Lexile measure or California Reading List number," then type that score into the box that appears. If, while you scroll through the results, you and your reader find a title that looks interesting, **IT IS PERFECTLY FINE FOR YOUR TEEN TO READ THAT TITLE FOR SUMMER READING, EVEN IF IT'S NOT LISTED ON THE TCS LIST.** This is just a list of our *recommendations*. Since our philosophy towards summer reading is different than some other schools, we don't want to hinder you or your teen from reading something that interests him or her just because we didn't think of the book first.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Do I have to read a book on this list?

A: NO! This is just a list of recommendations; if you and your teen find a book that's not on the list, but that he or she wants to read, that's OK.

Q: My teen is in middle school; where's the list for middle school?

A: This is the list for middle school AND high school.

Q: My teen is in high school; where's the list for high school?

A: This is the list for middle school AND high school.

Q: What makes a good summer reading book?

A: It has a Lexile rating that is **BELOW** your teen's Lexile score, which means that he or she will be able to read and understand the book independently.

Q: What if I want to have my teen read a book that's at or above their Lexile score?

A: Don't. Summer reading, like summer movies, is not about challenge. They're about fun.

Q: Where do I find my teen's Lexile score?

A: It's on his or her Stanford score report. Look at the side with all the bar graphs and scores. It's in the box on the left.

Q: Where do I find books that match my teen's Lexile score?

A: Go to <http://www.lexile.com/findabook/>. Click on "Find a Book"; click on the button that says "My reader has a single Lexile measure or California Reading List number" and then type in that score (found on their Stanford score report in a box on the left-hand side).

Q: Is Summer Reading for a grade?

A: No, summer reading is not for a grade. HOWEVER, it can earn your teen *significant* amounts of extra credit in his or her fall semester English classes.

Q: How does my teen earn this mysterious "extra credit" of which you speak?

A: By completing one or more of the projects on the list provided; projects turned in after **AUGUST 27, 2011** will NOT be accepted for credit.

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Non-fiction

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich
Growing Up Empty by Loretta Schwartz-Nobel
The Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff
The Best Technology Writing 2007 by Steven Levy, ed
Whatever You Do, Don't Run by Peter Allison

Poetry

19 Varieties of Gazelle by Naomi Shihab Nye
Out of the Dust by Karen Hess
The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe
Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti

Fiction

Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories by Sandra Cisneros
Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
The Sorrow of War by Bao Ninh
The Gardens of Kyoto by Kate Walbert
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Miracle's Boys by Jacqueline Woodson
Love, Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Tangerine by Edward Bloor
Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
Rhymes with Witches by Lauren Myracle (HS Only)
Messenger by Lois Lowry
Tears of a Tiger by Sharon Draper
The People of Sparks by Jeanne DuPrau
The Ransom of Mercy Carter by Caroline B. Cooney
Angel Experiment series by James Patterson
Merlin series by T. A. Barron
Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle
The Phantom Tollboth by Norton Juster
Chronicles of Narnia series by C. S. Lewis
Island of the Blue Dolphin by Scott O'Dell

(Auto)biography

This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolf
Kitchen Confidential by Anthony Bourdain (HS Only)
Born to Run by Christopher McDougall

Comics

The Amulet by Kazu Kibuishi
Marvels by Kurt Busiek
Marvel 1602 by Neil Gaiman
Maus by Art Speigleman (HS Only)
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
Bone by Jeff Smith
Mouse Guard Series by David Pettersen
Age of Bronze by Eric Shanower
American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

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Choose ONE activity to do when you have completed your Reading Selection.

Parents, please participate if your child asks for help.

PROJECTS DUE THURSDAY AUGUST 25, 2011.

- Scrapbook** Choose 10 newspaper or magazine articles and create a scrapbook. Write a one-paragraph summary about each article to place in your scrapbook. Extra points will be given for creative appearance and organization.
- Vocab List** Type or write words with definitions, and indicate the chapter of the book in which it was found. Create a 25-word vocabulary list from the book you have selected.
- Model** Use modeling clay or paper mache to creatively portray a main character or something that will artistically illustrate some aspect of the book. One of the main characters, the main object, or a major setting of the book.
- Map Making** Draw, use colored sand, or design a computerized map, etc. of the different locations in the book OR a character's journey OR past/present time comparison maps. Identify significant places, and include a legend.
- Illustrations** You may put the four illustrations on one page or you may use a separate page for each of the four illustrations. Identify the beginning (1), middle (2) and the end (1) of your book.
- PowerPoint** Create your own Power Point Presentation (Minimum of 10 slides): You can use pictures, symbols, and words to create this original creation
- New Ending** Create a New Title and New Ending to the book you read. Write a new title and a write at least a paragraph changing the ending.
- Quiz** Develop an appropriate quiz for each chapter/section/poem in the book. 5-10 questions, T/F, Fill in blanks, matching, etc.
- Timeline** Create a timeline on poster board OR create a timeline on the computer. Use 10-12 events that summarize the sequence in time of what occurred.
- Book Jacket** Create a book jacket that illustrates a scene from the book. Summarize the plot on the flap. Write a brief biography about yourself as artist of the book jacket to include in the flap.