

Recommended Fiction

The Nature of Jade – Deb Caletti

Jade's life becomes complicated when she volunteers at a zoo in order to meet a boy named Sabastian, who has some secrets.

Inkheart – Cornelia Funke

In this fantasy, Meggie's father Mo can make characters he writes about come alive in books. When one character happens to be evil, a new villain is unleashed!

Heavy Metal and You – Christopher Krovatin

The author paints a realistic portrait about how teens with opposite backgrounds, personalities and interests can sometimes attract and how sometimes these relationships may change over time.

Double Helix – Nancy Werlin

Eighteen-year-old Eli discovers a shocking secret about his life and his family while working for a Nobel Prize-Winning scientist whose specialty is genetic engineering.

House of the Scorpion – Nancy Farmer

A futuristic book that traces the life of a boy named Matt who realizes he is a clone for a powerful drug lord.

Thwunk – Joan Bauer

When A. J. meets a cupid who offers her one of three wishes: artistic, academic, or romantic assistance, her wish has unexpected results! Funny!

Well, At Least My Life is Better Than This!!

Ransom – Lois Duncan

When Bruce, Glenn, Dexter and Marianne realize they are on the wrong road, they also realize it is not just another bus ride home.

Jump the Cracks – Stacy DeKeyser

Victoria finds an apparently abused child in a train's bathroom and promises to protect him even at the expense of her own safety.

Lovely Bones – Alice Sebold

Susie watches from heaven what happens to her family, friends and even boyfriend after her disappearance.

Odd Thomas - Dean Koontz

This electrifying, suspenseful tale is about a boy who has the rare talent to converse with ghosts

November Blues – Ellen Draper

Painting the Black – Carl Deuker

Burned, Crank, Glass – by Ellen Hopkins (three titles)

Catalyst- Laurie Halse Anderson

The Taker – J. M. Steele

Hanging on to Max – Margaret Bechard

Biography

Farewell to Manzanar – Jeanne Wakatsuki and James Houston

Biography of J.W. Houston related to her experiences living in Manzanar, a Japanese internment camp, during World War II.

Recommended Authors

Mitch Albom

Ann Brashares

Chris Crutcher

Mike Lupica

Walter Dean Myers

Donna Jo Napoli

Jodi Picoult

Michael Crichton

Lois Duncan

Neil Gaimon

Will Hobbs

Brian Jacques

Stephen King

Anne McCaffrey

Tamora Pierce

Todd Strasser

J.R.R. Tolkien

Kurt Vonnegut

Jacqueline Woodson

Paul Zindel

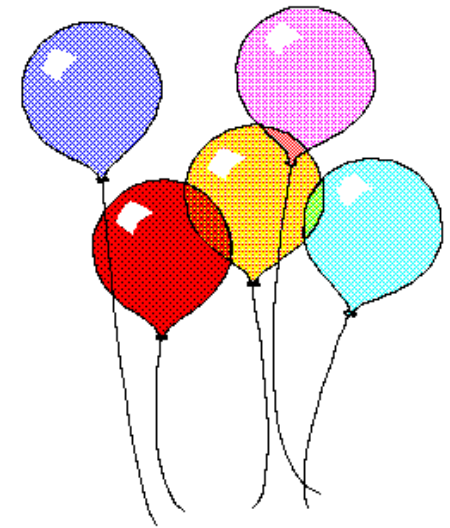
Cynthia Voigt

J.K. Rowling

Laurie Halse Anderson

Sarah Dessen

Stratford Public Schools Summer Reading Suggestions for High School Students 2009



**"Real luxury is time
and opportunity to
read for pleasure."**

Jane Brody

Historical Fiction

Shackleton's Stowaway – Victoria McKernan

Based on historical accounts of Shackleton's famous 1914 Antarctic expedition, and told through one of its youngest crew members, Perce Blackborow, this story describes the harrowing, doomed voyage of the *Endurance*.

Assassin – Anna Myers

A young White House seamstress named Bella and the actor John Wilkes Booth describe the events that lead to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

The River Between Us – Richard Peck

Placed during the Civil War, two mysterious girls arrive in southern Illinois just off the boat! They have been relocated because their mother hopes they will be considered white.

Historical Nonfiction

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth - James Cross Giblin

This fascinating biography of Edwin and John Wilkes Booth, both 19th century actors, recounts John's assassination of Abraham Lincoln and its impact on the Booth family for decades afterward.

My Mother the Cheerleader- Robert Sharenow

Louise's mother spends her time at a local elementary school, during the 1960's, as one of the "cheerleaders".

Ask Me No Questions - Marina Budhos

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family

CONTEMPORARY

After Tupac & D Foster- Jacqueline Woodson

Three girls in NYC bond over their shared love of Tupac's music as they try to make sense of the world around them.

Face Relations – Marilyn Singer

A timely look at the issues faced by teens in a diverse and not-so-diverse setting and how they deal with it.

SPORTS

Ball Don't Lie – Matt de la Pena

Seventeen-year-old Sticky lives to play baseball at school and at Lincoln Rec Center in Los Angeles and is headed for the pros, but he is unaware of the many dangers –including his own past- that threaten his dream.

Dairy Queen – *Catherine Gilbert Murdock*

After DJ's father's injury, DJ must work on the farm to keep it going. When a rival school's football coach sends their quarterback Brian to DJ for training, she begins to wonder if she too has the talent to be a player.

100 Athletes who Shaped Sports History

Timothy Jacobs, Russell Roberts

Includes biographical sketches of one hundred athletes whose talent, ambition, and discipline led them to reach historic heights in sports.

MEMORABLE PLOTS

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas – John Boyne

Bruno goes with his family to a place in Poland called "Out-With" where he wonders what the people in the striped pajamas are doing behind the high-wire fence.

Sunrise Over Falujah – Walter Dean Myers

Robin "Birdy" Perry isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he knows he is headed to Iraq. The Army calls securing the country "Operation Iraqi Freedom" but he calls it WAR.

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines in World War II – Joseph Bruchac

Based on the experiences of a group of Navajo marines who used their Native language to radio information and commands that were never intercepted by the Japanese and remained top-secret until 1969.

Short Stories

My Life In Dog Years – Gary Paulsen

Full of humorous, heartwarming true stories of dogs told through the eyes of this great, adventurous author.

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

The Host– Stephanie Meyer

When Wanderer, a parasite who has come to Earth to inhabit a human body, discovers that Melanie Stryder, the

former inhabitant, is still alive, she also discovers that the planet she has visited holds unexpected hardships.

Acceleration - Graham McNamee

Working in the lost and found department of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, 17-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

The Uglies – Scott Westerfield

All Tally Youngblood has ever wanted to do is to become a pretty. She has just three months to go before she will undergo society's mandated plastic surgery to look model beautiful like everyone else. But she meets some uglies who have never had the surgery and they have a secret to tell her about.

The Historian – Elizabeth Kostova

A teenage girl discovers a medieval book and yellowed letters in her father's library. This book links her to her father's long search for Dracula – Vlad the Impaler, who is thought to still be alive.

Everlost – Neal Shusterman

What happens when you die and move toward the light but get detoured? You find yourself becoming an Afterlight, and the adventure really begins!

The Fallen – Tom Sniegowski

Aaron Corbet discovers the truth behind his strange dreams and his destiny as a liaison between angels, mortals and the powers of good and evil.

POETRY

The Rose that Grew From Concrete – Tupac Shakur

A collection of poetry written by the rapper between 1987 and 1991, before he became famous.

Recommended Series Books

Twilight Series

Uglies Series

Cirque de Freak Series

Percy Jackson and the Olympians

Maximum Ride

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

Alice Series

Confessions of Georgia Nicholson

The House of Night

