



June 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students Entering Grades 11-12,

Summer Reading is a great opportunity for students to enjoy literature and strengthen the literacy skills necessary for academic achievement. Please find enclosed a list of Summer Reading books that are appropriate for your child's grade level. Visit the Haverhill Public Schools website for the lists of all approved books and reading logs:

<http://www.haverhill-ps.org/curriculum-department/reading-lists/>

Students are required to read at least **one** book, but are encouraged to read as many as possible. Books are available at the Haverhill Public Library and at local bookstores, such as Barnes & Noble. Many of these titles are also available as eBooks and/or audiobooks.

In September students will be given an assignment related to their summer reading. Teachers create assignments that address plot, character, setting, theme, conflict, etc. Students may be asked to write a brief essay, interview each other about their books, present a book report to the class, or create a project (i.e., book jacket, book cube, collage, poster). To help with these assignments, students are encouraged to take notes as they read.

Please encourage your child to read as many books as possible, but bear in mind that many families rely on the Haverhill Public Library. In consideration of others, please check out only one or two books at a time, and return them as soon as possible. This will allow all children to benefit from the local public library – a wonderful resource.

Thank you for supporting our Summer Reading Program.

Happy Reading!

HAVERHILL: ENTERING GRADES 11-12 SUMMER READING LIST 2015

The list below contains summer reading selections for students entering Grades 11 and 12 at HHS. Choose at least ONE book and read it by the start of the school year. An assignment will be given during the first two weeks of school, and this score will be averaged with your first quarter English grade. Some titles may be available in eBook or audiobook format at the public library and local bookstores.

FICTION

Rot and Ruin

Jonathan Maberry

Benny Imura doesn't want to follow in his brother's footsteps and be a zombie bounty hunter, but he has no other choice. What he doesn't expect is that a job hunting down the undead would show him what it really means to be alive.

Ready Player One

Ernest Cline

Immersing himself in a technological virtual utopia to escape an ugly real world of famine, poverty, and disease, Wade Watts joins an increasingly violent effort to solve a series of puzzles by the virtual world's creator.

Out of the Easy

Ruta Septys

Josie, the seventeen-year-old daughter of a French Quarter prostitute, is striving to escape 1950 New Orleans and enroll at prestigious Smith College when she becomes entangled in a murder investigation.

Life of Pi

Yann Martel

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, Pi Patel (unusual son of a zookeeper) sets sail for America. When the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals — until only Pi and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

Fangirl

Rainbow Rowell

Being consummate fans of the Simon Snow series helped Cath and her twin sister, Wren, cope when their mother left them. As they start college, Cath fears she is unprepared to live without Wren holding her hand — and without her passion for Snow.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Stephen Chbosky

Charlie is a wallflower--shy and introspective, and intelligent beyond his years, if not very savvy in the social arts. We learn about Charlie through the letters he writes to someone of undisclosed name, age, and gender, a stylistic technique that adds to the heart-wrenching earnestness saturating this teen's story. Charlie's letters take on the intimate feel of a journal as he shares his day-to-day thoughts and feelings.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Sherman Alexie

Junior expects disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to the rich, white school in Reardan, but soon finds himself making friends with both geeky and popular students and starting on the basketball team. Meeting his old classmates on the court, Junior grapples with questions about what constitutes one's community, identity, and tribe. The daily struggles of reservation life and the tragic deaths of the protagonist's grandmother, dog, and older sister would be all but unbearable without the humor and resilience of spirit with which Junior faces the world.

Sunrise over Fallujah

Walter Dean Myers

Instead of heading to college as his father wishes, Robin leaves Harlem and joins the army to stand up for his country after 9/11. While stationed in Iraq with a war looming that he hopes will be averted, he begins writing letters home to his parents and to his Uncle Richie, the main character from Myers's acclaimed Vietnam War novel, *Fallen Angels* (Scholastic, 1988). Robin finds himself in a diverse Civil Affairs unit of both men and

women, with a mission to serve as a buffer between winning over the Iraqi people and concurrent military operations. As the war unfolds, the military angle of Robin's job escalates, and he experiences increasing horrors of violence, death, destruction, insecurity, sorrow, and extreme fear. Ultimately, he comprehends the reasons Uncle Richie never wanted to talk to their family about what happened in Vietnam, saying, "-are there really enough words to make them understand?"

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

When Elizabeth Bennet first meets eligible bachelor Fitzwilliam Darcy, she thinks him arrogant and conceited; he is indifferent to her good looks and lively mind. When she later discovers that Darcy has involved himself in the troubled relationship between his friend Bingley and her beloved sister Jane, she is determined to dislike him more than ever. In the sparkling comedy of manners that follows, Jane Austen shows the folly of judging by first impressions and superbly evokes the friendships, gossip and snobberies of provincial middle-class life.

Twisted

Laurie Halse Anderson

Socially inept Tyler Miller thinks his senior year of high school is going to be a year like no other. After being sentenced to a summer of character building physical labor following a graffiti prank, his reputation at school receives a boost, as do his muscles. Enter super-popular Bethany Milbury, sister of his tormentor, Chip, and daughter of his father's boss. Tyler's newfound physique has attracted her interest and infuriated Chip, leading to ongoing conflicts at school. Readers will rejoice in Tyler's proclamation, I'm not the problem here...I'm tired of feeling like I am. Teenage concerns with sex, alcohol, grades, and family are all tackled with candor.

Just Listen

Sarah Dessen

Annabel Greene seemingly had everything: cool friends, close family, good grades, and a part-time modeling career in town. But it all came crashing down, and Annabel has spent the summer in shaky, self-imposed exile. She finds herself dreading the new school term and facing, well, everyone again. The last thing she wants to do is revisit old friendships while the losses are painful, the secrets behind the rifts are almost unbearable.

Here Lies Arthur

Philip Reeve

When her village is attacked and burned, Gwyna seeks protection from the bard Myrddin, who uses Gwyna in his plan to transform young Arthur into the heroic King Arthur.

The First Part Last

Angela Johnson

Brief, poetic, and absolutely riveting, this gem of a novel tells the story of a young father struggling to raise an infant. Bobby, 16, is a sensitive and intelligent narrator. His parents are supportive but refuse to take over the child-care duties, so he struggles to balance parenting, school, and friends who don't comprehend his new role. Alternate chapters go back to the story of Bobby's relationship with his girlfriend Nia and how parents and friends reacted to the news of her pregnancy.

Whale Talk

Chris Crutcher

Crutcher's gripping tale of small-town prejudice delivers a frank, powerful message about social issues and ills. Representing one-third of his community's minority population ("I'm black. And Japanese. And white"), narrator T.J. Jones voices a darkly ironic appraisal of the high school sports arena. Despite his natural athletic ability (at 13, he qualified for the Junior Olympics in two swimming events), T.J. has steered away from organized sports until his senior year, when Mr. Simet, a favorite English teacher, implores him to help form a swim team for the school. T.J. sees an opportunity to get revenge on the establishment and invites outcasts to participate on the team.

Feed

M T Anderson

In this chilling novel, Anderson imagines a society dominated by the feed, a next-generation Internet/television hybrid that is directly hardwired into the brain. Teen narrator Titus never questions his world, in which parents select their babies' attributes in the conceptionarium; corporations dominate the information stream, and kids learn to employ the feed more efficiently in School. Everything changes when he and his pals travel to the moon

for spring break. Without exposition, Anderson deftly combines elements of today's teen scene, including parties and shopping malls, with imaginative and disturbing fantasy twists.

Graceling

Kristin Cashore

In a world where some people are born with extreme, and often-feared, skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace, the Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

Beauty Queens

Libba Bray

After a plane crash strands thirteen teen beauty contestants on a mysterious island they struggle to survive, get along with one another, and combat the island's other diabolical occupants, and learn their dance numbers just in case they are rescued in time for the competition.

Tyrell

Coe Booth

Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he does not end up in jail like his father.

The Book Thief

Markus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel- a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Madapple

Christina Meldrum

A girl who has been brought up in near isolation is thrown into a twisted web of family secrets and religious fundamentalism when her mother dies and she goes to live with relatives she never knew she had.

Lock and Key

Sarah Dessen

When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she too has something to offer others.

Looking for Alaska

John Green

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers.

Sold

Patricia McCormick

Lakshmi, though poor, enjoys her life until the Himalayan monsoons wash away her family's crops and she is sold to a brothel in India by her stepfather. She remembers her mother's wisdom, "Simply to endure is to triumph" until the day comes that she can reclaim her life.

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Julia Alvarez

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, they rebel against Mami and Papi's old-world discipline and embrace all that America.

Please Ignore Vera Dietz

A.S. King

When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name.

Little Brother

After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

Cory Doctorow

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

"Seconds before the Earth is demolished for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is saved by Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised *Guide*. Together they stick out their thumbs to the stars and begin a wild journey through time and space." (Amazon.com)

Douglas Adams

NONFICTION

Bossypants

Bossypants is a funny autobiography written by Tina Fey. This book may make you laugh out loud. Recently, Fey won the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

Tina Fey

March: Book 1

March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

John Lewis

Hole in My Life

A gaping hole of misery is what popular young adult author Jack Gantos remembers when he thinks back to 1972, "the bleakest year of my life." Just 20 years old, Gantos was in a medium security prison for his participation in a get-rich-quick drug scam. Scared silly by the violence he saw around him daily, Gantos's only lifeline was a battered copy of *The Brothers Karamazov*, which he painstakingly turned into an impromptu journal by scratching his own thoughts into the tiny spaces between the lines. There, he recorded both his fears and his dream of someday writing a book of his own. It was during his time behind bars that he found himself growing into a focused, diligent writer who eschewed drugs for the bigger high of watching his words fill the hole once and for all.

Jack Gantos

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America tells the story of what a privileged and articulate writer experienced when she attempted to live as an "unskilled" working class person. Barbara Ehrenreich spent time in Key West, Maine, and Minnesota holding down jobs as a waitress, nursing home aide, cleaning woman, and Wall-Mart "associate." She attempted to live on the wages these jobs paid--without drawing on her skills as a PhD, author, or lecturer.

Barbara Ehrenreich

***Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner**

Levitt (economics, U. of Chicago) and Dubner (former New York Times Magazine writer/editor) present unconventional ideas about how economic, social, and moral incentives affect real situations. These include what motivates teachers as well as sumo wrestlers to cheat, an association between abortions and reduced crime, and whether good parenting or genetics contributes more to child outcomes. In *Freakonomics*, Levitt argues that many apparent mysteries of everyday life don't need to be so mysterious: they could be illuminated and made even more fascinating by asking the right questions and drawing connections.

This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women

An inspiring collection of the personal philosophies of a group of remarkable men and women based on the National Public Radio series of the same name, *This I Believe* features eighty essayists from the famous to the unknown completing the thought that begins the book's title. Each piece compels readers to rethink not only how they have arrived at their own personal beliefs but also the extent to which they share them with others. Featuring a well-known list of contributors including Isabel Allende, Colin Powell, Gloria Steinem, William F.

Jay Allison & Dan Gediman

Buckley Jr., Penn Jillette, Bill Gates, and John Updike. The collection also contains essays by a Brooklyn lawyer; a part-time hospital clerk from Rehoboth, Massachusetts; a woman who sells Yellow Pages advertising in Fort Worth, Texas; and a man who serves on the state of Rhode Island's parole board.

Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-year-old GI

Ryan Smithson

In a harrowing memoir about combat, friendship, fear, and a soldier's commitment to his country, Smithson brings readers inside a world that few understand, as he describes his experience as a 19-year-old Army engineer in Iraq.

Invisible Gorilla and Other Ways Our Intuitions Deceive Us

Chris Chabris and Daniel Simons

This tale shows a series of remarkable stories and counterintuitive scientific findings to demonstrate an important truth: Our minds don't work the way we think they do. We think we see ourselves and the world as they really are, but we're actually missing a whole lot.

Six Degrees: Our Future On a Hotter Planet

Mark Lynas

What is global warming and what does it mean for our civilization? This book delves into what environmental scientists portent about the consequences of human pollution for the next hundred years.

Feynman (graphic novel biography)

Jim Ottaviani and Leland Myrick

"Anyone who ever wanted to know more about Richard P. Feynman, quantum electrodynamics, the fine art of the bongo drums, the outrageously obscure nation of Tuva, or the development and popularization of the field of physics in the United States need look no further than this rich and joyful work." *Feynman* "presents the larger-than-life exploits of Nobel-winning quantum physicist, adventurer, musician, world-class raconteur, and one of the greatest minds of the twentieth century: Richard Feynman." (Amazon.com)

Assassination Vacation

Sarah Vowell

"Sarah Vowell exposes the glorious conundrums of American history and culture with wit, probity, and an irreverent sense of humor. With *Assassination Vacation*, she takes us on a road trip like no other – a journey to the pit stops of American political murder and through the myriad ways they have been used for fun and profit, for political and cultural advantage." (Amazon.com)

Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer

James L. Swanson

The murder of Abraham Lincoln set off the greatest manhunt in American history. From April 14 to April 26, 1865, the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, led Union cavalry and detectives on a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia, while the nation, still reeling from the just-ended Civil War, watched in horror and sadness. James L. Swanson's *Manhunt* is a fascinating tale of murder, intrigue, and betrayal.

Outliers: The Story of Success

Malcolm Gladwell

We learn what Bill Gates, the Beatles and Mozart had in common: along with talent and ambition, each enjoyed an unusual opportunity to intensively cultivate a skill that allowed them to rise above their peers. Through case studies ranging from Canadian junior hockey champions to the robber barons of the Gilded Age, from Asian math whizzes to software entrepreneurs to the rise of his own family in Jamaica, Gladwell tears down the myth of individual merit to explore how culture, circumstance, timing, birth and luck account for success.

Reading Lolita in Tehran

Azar Nafisi

In 1995, after resigning from her job as a professor at a university in Tehran due to repressive policies, Azar Nafisi invited seven of her best female students to attend a weekly study of great Western literature in her home. Since the books were banned, the women were forced to meet in secret, often sharing photocopied pages of the illegal novels. For two years they met to talk, share, and read. Though most of the women were intimidated at first, they became emboldened by the forum and used the meetings as a springboard for debating the social, cultural, and political realities of living under Islamic rule.

First They Killed My Father

Loung Ung

Written in the present tense, *First They Killed My Father* will put you right in the midst of the action--action you'll wish had never happened. The brutality seems unending--beatings, starvation, attempted rape, mental cruelty--and yet the narrator (a young girl) never stops fighting for escape and survival.

The Jump: Sebastian Telfair and the High Stakes Business of High School Ball

Ian O'Connor

Anyone who pays attention to professional basketball knows that many of the NBA's best players skipped college and went pro straight from high school. Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant, and LeBron James, all 6'-6" inches tall or taller, are the best of the high-school phenoms. As a high-school senior, Sebastian Telfair considered himself their equal on the court. At an six feet, though, he was not their equal in size, and if he were to make the jump directly to the professional ranks, he would become the smallest player to have done so.

102 Minutes

Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn

The untold story of the fight to survive inside the Twin Towers - New York Times reporters Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn rely on hundreds of interviews; thousands of pages of oral histories; and phone, e-mail, and emergency radio transcripts. They cross a bridge of voices to go inside the infernos, seeing cataclysm and heroism, one person at a time, to tell the affecting, authoritative saga of the men and women -- the 12,000 who escaped and the 2,749 who perished.

Animals Make US Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals

Temple Grandin

Grandin draws on her own experience with autism and her career as an animal scientist to deliver insights into how animals think, act and feel. She builds on those insights to show us how to give our animals the best and happiest life – on their terms, not ours.

Lies My Teacher Told Me

James Loewen

Americans have lost touch with their history and in *Lies My Teacher Told Me* Professor James Loewen shows why. Marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies, history textbooks omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and drama from our past.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers

Mary Roach

Stiff is an oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. This is the history of cadavers from antiquity to present day.

Persepolis

Marjane Satrapi

“Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi’s memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah’s regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.” (Amazon.com)

Haverhill Public Schools

GRADES 11-12 SUMMER READING LOG 2015

Title	Author	Date	Parent/Guardian Signature
1.			
2.			
3.			

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

