



June 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students Entering Grades 9-10,

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 9-10 SUMMER READING LIST 2015**

The list below contains summer reading selections for students entering Grades 9 and 10 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**

#### ***Cinder***

**Marissa Meyer**

A futuristic take on the Cinderella story. Observed by ruthless lunar people, plague ravages the overcrowded Earth. Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world.

#### ***Openly Straight***

**Bill Konigsberg**

Tired of being known as "the gay kid," Rafe Goldberg decides to assume a new persona when he comes east and enters an elite Massachusetts prep school. Trying to deny his identity has unexpected consequences.

#### ***The Maze Runner***

**James Dashner**

The first book in a science-fiction trilogy. Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze. He quickly realizes that — if he is to escape — he must work with the community in which he finds himself.

#### ***The Raven Boys***

**Maggie Stiefvater**

Blue Sargent's gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger. When she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the Aglionby Academy, she discovers that together, their talents are a dangerous mix.

#### ***Monster***

**Walter Dean Myers**

"Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

#### ***Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging (humor)***

**Louise Rennison**

Fourteen-year-old Georgia Nicolson is just like any other girl her age although she doesn't always see that. She thinks she's ugly, has no boyfriend potential, and believes her parents are a little (or a lot!) on the "naff" side.

#### ***Freaky Green Eyes***

**Joyce Carol Oates**

This novel tells the story about a young girl whose life seems to be without any problems. Her father is a very famous football player and her mother is very interested in arts. But during the story the reader learns that being rich is not enough for being happy.

#### ***Ironman***

**Chris Crutcher**

Bo Brewster lets his anger get the best of him. He finds himself in Mr. Nak's Anger Management class filled with people who are bullies, future American Gladiators, and people who have problems at home. Bo is training like crazy throughout the school year for Yukon Jack's triathlon. Will Bo crack under the pressure of the race or will he rise to the occasion?

#### ***Ender's Game (fantasy/sci fi)***

**Orson Scott Card**

The tale of the child-hero Ender Wiggum, who must fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race if mankind is to survive.

#### ***Stuck in Neutral***

**Terry Trueman**

Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

***Parrot In the Oven***

**Victor Martinez**

Monolo Hernandez lives a difficult life. His father is a drug addict and a drunk. His mother cheats on his father, and his father tried to kill her. His brothers are mean to him. He thinks the only way of getting over all of this is by joining a gang, but he doesn't know if he wants to get into that kind of life.

***The Killer's Cousin (mystery)***

**Nancy Werlin**

After being acquitted of murder, David goes to stay with relatives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he finds himself forced to face his past as he learns more about his strange cousin Lily.

***Son of the Mob (humor)***

**Gordon Korman**

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

***The Gospel According to Larry (humor)***

**Janet Tashjian**

Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

***Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie***

**David Lubar**

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.

***Nation***

**Terry Pratchett**

After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

***Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History (graphic novel)***

**Art Spiegelman**

"By portraying a true story of the Holocaust in comic form – the Jews are mice, the Germans cats, the Poles pigs, the French frogs, and the Americans dogs – Spiegelman compels the reader to *imagine* the action, to fill in the blanks that are so often shied away from. Reading *Maus*, you are forced to examine the Holocaust anew." (Source: Amazon.com)

***Life As We Knew It***

**Susan Beth Pfeffer**

When an asteroid collides with the moon, causing natural disasters, life as 16-year-old Miranda knows it will never be the same. Suddenly, things she has taken for granted electricity, news from the outside world, and three square meals a day are a thing of the past. Thanks to her mother's foresight and preparedness, Miranda and her two brothers are better off than many families in their Pennsylvania community. Yet their situation becomes more critical as other unexpected disasters arise.

***An Abundance of Katherines***

**John Green**

When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type prefers girls named Katherine. Yet Colin is always getting dumped – 19 times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has \$10,000 in his pocket, a bloodthirsty hog on his trail, and an overweight best friend riding shotgun... but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship and finally win him the girl.

***The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things***

**Carolyn Mackler**

Sophomore Virginia Shreves lives in Manhattan and attends a prestigious private school. She lives by her Fat Girl Code of Conduct. She has a budding romance with Froggy the Fourth, and her baggy clothing helps her to "hide." Her mother is an adolescent psychologist obsessed with her daughter's weight, and her father is rarely around. Told through first-person narrative, journal entries, and e-mail, Virginia's story will interest readers who are looking for a book with teen angst, a bit of romance, and a kid who is a bit like them or their friends.

***A Great and Terrible Beauty*****Libba Bray**

A new Gothic tale of a Victorian girl's school reveals a terrible secret. At 16, Gemma must leave the only home she's known (India) when her mother kills herself under bizarre circumstances. Although she longed to see London while her family lived abroad, Gemma is disappointed to find that she's being packed off to finishing school there. At school, she stands up to the circle of girls who seem to hold the most power, while dealing with weird hallucinations and the furtive presence of the young man she first saw in Bombay on the day of her mother's death. The school and its administration hold fast to a secret about the class of 1871.

***Rats Saw God*****Rob Thomas**

In order to pass English and graduate from high school, Steve York has to complete a 100-page paper for his guidance counselor. Steve decides to write about his sophomore and junior years examining what turned this National Merit Scholar into a junkie who is barely graduating. He writes about life with his father (a famous astronaut), his friends in the Dadaist art study group, and his first love who ultimately broke his heart.

***My Sister's Bones*****Cathi Hanauer**

Against a backdrop of malls and emerald-carpet lawns, Cassie Weinstein is slowly killing herself, and there seems to be nothing her younger sister Billie can do to stop her. At 15, Billie Weinstein, unlike her accomplished 18-year-old sister Cassie, is a rebel--and a charming mess. Her schoolwork is only adequate in a family that expects straight A's, she harbors an inappropriate crush on a local gas-station attendant called Dom, and her beloved best friend Tiffany is the school hood. When Cassie comes home for Christmas weighing 95 pounds and refusing to eat, chaos erupts.

***Dawn*****Elie Wiesel**

Elisha is a young Holocaust survivor, and an Israeli freedom fighter in British-controlled Palestine; John Dawson is the captured English officer he will murder at dawn in retribution for the British execution of a fellow freedom fighter. The night-long wait for morning and death provides *Dawn*, Elie Wiesel's novel with its harrowingly taut, hour-by-hour narrative. Caught between the horrors of the past and the dilemmas of the present, Elisha wrestles with guilt, ghosts, and God as he waits for the hour and his act of assassination.

***Marcelo in the Real World*****Francisco Stork**

"Marcelo Sandoval hears music no one else can hear--part of the autism-like impairment no doctor has been able to identify -- and he's always attended a special school where his differences have been protected. But the summer after his junior year, his father demands that Marcelo work in his law firm's mailroom in order to experience "the real world." There Marcelo meets Jasmine, his beautiful and surprising coworker, and Wendell, the son of another partner in the firm." (GoodReads.com)

***Ship Breaker*****Paola Bacigalupi**

"In America's Gulf Coast region, where grounded oil tankers are being broken down for parts, Nailor, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota--and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailor faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life." (GoodReads.com)

***Leviathan*****Scott Westerfeld**

"It is the cusp of World War I, and all the European powers are arming up. The Austro-Hungarians and Germans have their Clankers, steam-driven iron machines loaded with guns and ammunition. The British *Leviathan* is a whale airship, and the most masterful beast in the British fleet. Aleksandar Ferdinand, prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, is on the run. All he has is a battle-torn Stormwalker and a loyal crew of men. Deryn Sharp is a commoner, a girl disguised as a boy in the British Air Service. With the Great War brewing, Alek's and Deryn's paths cross in the most unexpected way...taking them both aboard the *Leviathan* on a fantastical, around-the-world adventure. One that will change both their lives forever." (Amazon.com)

## NONFICTION

***Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition***

**Karen Blumenthal**

Filled with period art, photographs, anecdotes, and portraits of unique characters from the era, this fascinating book looks at the rise and fall of the disastrous social experiment known as Prohibition.

***Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different***

**Karen Blumenthal**

“From the start, his path was never predictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniack.” (Source: goodreads.com)

***Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow***

**Susan Bartoletti**

The story of a generation of German young people who devoted all their energy to the Hitler Youth, the propaganda that brought Hitler his power, and the youths that resisted the Nazi movement.

***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter***

**Adeline Yen Mah**

Adeline Yen Mah's childhood was horrible. She endured emotional abuse from her stepmother and siblings and neglect from her wealthy banker father. Even though she suffered through extraordinary pain from as far back as she could remember, she still did well in school, excelled in her studies and was popular with her classmates.

***The Greatest: Muhammad Ali***

**Walter Dean Myers**

This book provides an introduction to Ali's life from his childhood to the present day, focusing on his career and the controversies surrounding him. Both his talent in the boxing ring and his showmanship earned him international fame, while his refusal to accept the stereotypical role of a black athletic star in the 1960s and his membership in the Nation of Islam brought him notoriety.

***The Burn Journals***

**Brent Runyon**

Brent Runyon was fourteen years old when he set himself on fire. In this biography, he describes that suicide attempt and his recovery over the following year.

***The Dark Game: True Spy Stories***

**Paul Janeczko**

In this collection, Paul B. Janeczko finds colorful personalities, daring missions, the feats of the loyal, and the damage of traitors throughout the history of intelligence gathering.

***Candy Freak***

**Steve Almond**

A self-professed candy freak, Steve Almond 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.

***Marching for Freedom: Walk Together Children and Don't You Grow Weary***

**Elizabeth Partridge**

Partridge examines the essential impact that children and teens had on the civil rights movement, including protests and the fifty-four mile march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama in 1965.

***Zlata's Diary***

**Zlata Filipovic**

From September 1991 through October 1993, young Zlata Filipovic kept a diary. When she began it, she was 11 years old, concerned mostly with friends, school, piano lessons, MTV, and Madonna. As the diary ends, she has become used to constant bombing and snipers; severe shortages of food, water, and gas; and the end of a privileged adolescence in her native Sarajevo. Zlata has been described as the new Anne Frank.

***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...***

**Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin**

Some failures lead to phenomenal successes, and this American's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, is one of them. Dangerously ill when he finished his climb in 1993, Mortenson was

sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan.

***Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith***

**Deborah Heiligman**

Beginning with Darwin's notorious chart listing reasons to wed and not to wed, Heiligman has created a unique picture of the controversial scientist and the effect of his marriage on his life and work. Using the couple's letters, diaries, and notebooks the author lets her subjects speak for themselves while rounding out the story of their relationship with information about their time and place. She shows how Darwin's love for his cousin was an important factor in his scientific work, pushing him to document his theory of natural selection for decades before publishing it with great trepidation.

***The Pluto Files***

**Neil DeGrasse Tyson**

When the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History reclassified Pluto as an icy comet, the public was in an uproar. Neil DeGrasse Tyson explores how Pluto is entrenched in our cultural and emotional view of the solar system and why so many wish Pluto was still a planet.

***A.D. New Orleans After the Deluge***

**Josh Neufled**

A stunning graphic novel, this book makes plain the undeniable horrors and humanity triggered by Hurricane Katrina in the true stories of six New Orleanians who survived the storm.

**GRADES 9-10 SUMMER READING LOG 2015**

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

---

Signature of Student

---

Signature of Parent/Guardian