

# HAVERHILL HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST 2009

## Entering Senior Year

Listed below are the summer reading selections for students entering Grade 12 at Haverhill High School. Choose at least one book and have it read by the start of the school year. An assignment will be given during the first two weeks of school IN ALL ENGLISH CLASSES and this score will be averaged with your first quarter grade. Books can be found at the Haverhill Public Library or at local bookstores. Note: Students may read any title specifically recommended by the librarian in place of one on the list. Select titles are also available in a variety of audio formats for readers who would like to listen to the story while they read.

### FICTION:

#### *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.

#### *The Alchemist*

**Paulo Coelho**

This inspirational fable by Brazilian author and translator Coelho is the charming tale of Santiago, a shepherd boy, who dreams of seeing the world who learns many lessons during his adventures. He journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment.

#### *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.

#### *On the Road*

**Jack Kerouac**

*On The Road*, the most famous of Jack Kerouac's works, is not only the soul of the Beat movement and literature, but one of the most important novels of the century. Like nearly all of Kerouac's writing, *On The Road* is thinly fictionalized autobiography, filled with a cast made of Kerouac's real life friends, lovers, and fellow travelers. Narrated by Sal Paradise, one of Kerouac's alter-egos, *On the Road* is a cross-country bohemian odyssey.

#### *Sold*

**Patricia McCormick**

Lakshimi, 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.

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***She's Come Undone***

**Wally Lamb**

"Mine is a story of craving; an unreliable account of lusts and troubles that began, somehow, in 1956 on the day our free television was delivered." So begins the story of Dolores Price, the unconventional heroine of Wally Lamb's *She's Come Undone*. Dolores is a class-A emotional basket case, and why shouldn't she be? She's suffered almost every abuse and familial travesty that exists: Her father is a violent, philandering liar; her mother has the mental and emotional consistency of Jell-O; and the men in her life are probably the gender's most loathsome creatures. But Dolores is no quitter; she battles her woes with a sense of self-indulgence and gluttony rivaled only by Henry VIII.

***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

**NON FICTION:**

***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 they read were officially banned by the government, 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 "shed their mandatory veils and robes and burst into color." Though most of the women were shy and intimidated at first, they soon became emboldened by the forum and used the meetings as a springboard for debating the social, cultural, and political realities of living under strict Islamic rule.

***Shakespeare, The World As Stage***

**Bill Bryson**

Bryson celebrates Shakespeare as a writer of unimaginable talent and enormous inventiveness, a coiner of phrases ("vanish into thin air," "foregone conclusion," "one fell swoop") that even today have common currency. His Shakespeare is like no one else's—the beneficiary of Bryson's genial nature, his engaging skepticism, and a gift for storytelling unrivaled in our time.

***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 pro basketball knows that many of the NBA's best players skipped college and entered the professional ranks directly from high school. Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant, and LeBron James, all six feet six inches tall or taller, are the best of the high-school phenoms. As a high-school senior, Sebastian Telfair considered himself that group's equal on the court. At an even 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.

***Into the Wild***

**Jon Krakauer**

In April 1992, a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. He had given \$25,000 in savings to a charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet and invented a life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter.

***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.

**All annotations provided by Amazon.com, the Library Catalogue, or Barnes & Noble**