

Summer Reading for Students Entering 11th and 12th Grades

Highly Accessible Popular Fiction

- * *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown – a thriller about the conspiracies behind our culture
- * *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie
- * *Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson
- * *Girl with the Pearl Earring*, Tracy Chevalier
- * *Illusions*, Richard S. Bach – what happens when a freelance pilot meets a modern messiah?
- * *Water*, Batsi Sidhwa
- * *Blankets*, Craig Thompson – a graphic novel about the ups and downs of first love
- * *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini
- * *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan

Classics

- * *The House of Seven Gables*, Nathaniel Hawthorne
- * *Crime and Punishment*, Dostoyevski
- * *Anna Karenin*, Leo Tolstoy
- * *Emma*, Jane Austen
- * *Madame Bovary*, Gustav Flaubert
- * *The Mill on the Floss*, George Eliot
- * *The Red and the Black*, Stendahl
- * *East of Eden*, John Steinbeck – a modern Cain and Abel set in heartland USA

Contemporary Fiction

- * *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Milan Kundera – an existential look at modern love
- * *The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath – a meditation on the fate of the sensitive
- * *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving – a quirky adventure story about belief and destiny
- * *Waiting for the Barbarians*, J.M. Coetzee
- * *Slaughterhouse Five*, Kurt Vonnegut – a surreal trip through WWII into the 1970s

Non-fiction

- * *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Arthur Haley – the riveting story of an American revolutionary
- * *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Michael Pollan – an open-eyed look at what we eat and where it comes from
- * *Into Thin Air*, Jon Krakauer
- * *Notes from a Small Island*, Bill Bryson
- * *A Small Place*, Jamaica Kincaid
- * *Life on the Mississippi*, Mark Twain – Twain's lyrical homage to life on the big river
- * *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Jared Diamond – an anthropologists' look at why certain societies succeed
- * *The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell