

**Somers Public Schools
Somers, CT 06071**



**2008
Summer Reading List**

www.somers.k12.ct.us

Links on each of the school's web pages

The Somers Summer Reading List is revised each year in late spring. The updated list will be published on the web site in May of each year.

Somers Elementary School

Dear Parents:

This summer invite your child into a world of adventure, journeys and discovery through the enjoyment of reading books. We encourage your support of literacy and hope that you will engage your child's interest in any of the following books or the thousands of others at your library or bookstores. These are some suggestions and guidelines that you may find helpful.

Reading aloud to your young children is very beneficial. As Joseph Addison said: "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

Guidelines for Choosing Books for Children

Preschool and Kindergarten

Children at this age:

- Are delighted by Mother Goose and rhyming stories and love to hear them over and over. They will begin to recite verses by themselves.
- Enjoy pop-up books and books with flaps to flip which provide opportunities for active participation and storytelling.
- Are stimulated by wordless books which allows them to creativity tell stories and provides them with opportunities for expression and conversation.

Grade 1

Children at this age:

- Read aloud picture books with good storylines.
- Enjoy alphabet and counting books, fairy tales, and easy informational books.
- Are attracted to books with vibrant pictures that support the storyline and have repetitive patterns.

Grade 2

Children at this age:

- Enjoy listening to chapter books of some complexity.
- Start to read easy chapter books.
- Continue to enjoy having parents share picture books with them.
- Begin to enjoy particular authors or series books.

Grade 3

Children at this age:

- Read chapter books independently.
- Begin to explore books from various genres such as mysteries, historical fiction and science fiction.
- Continue to enjoy being read aloud to several times per week.
- Like to select their own reading material at school and public libraries.
- Take pride in showing off their reading skills.
- Understand more complex stories and chapter books than they can read themselves.
- Continue to enjoy having chapter books read to them.

Grade 4

Children at this age:

- Are fascinated with unusual fact and record books.
- Prefer tall tales over fairy tales.
- Enjoy realistic fiction with happy endings.
- Select sports stories and stories about heroes.
- Enjoy animal stories and nonfiction animal fact books.

Grade 5

Children at this age:

- Enjoy biographies.
- Appreciate funny books and have a well-developed sense of humor.
- Like adventure, spine-tingling and fantasy stories.
- Like historical fiction stories.
- Like statistical collections (sports).
- Enjoy how-to books for parent-child projects.

Summer Reading List Entering Preschool

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin
Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins
Have You Seen My Duckling? by Nancy Tafuri
The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss
Mother Goose by Tomie dePaola
Freight Train by Donald Crews
On Market Street by Arnold Lobel
Jessie Bear, What will You Wear? by Nancy Carlstrom
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin and Eric Carle
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Make Way For Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
Good Dog Carl by Alexander Day
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper
The Three Little Bears by Paul Galdone
The Wheels On The Bus by Maryann Kovalski
Titch by Pat Hutchins
Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
Little Bear by Elsa Minarik
Dr. Seuss (series) by Dr. Seuss

Suggested Authors

Eric Carle, Donald Crews, Don Freeman, Paul Galdone, Pat Hutchins, Mercer Mayer, Bernard Most,
Robert Munsch, Maurice Sendak, Dr. Seuss, Martin Waddell

Summer Reading List Entering Kindergarten

First Discovery Books by Scholastic
Is Your Mama a Llama? by Steven Kellogg
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner by Amy Schwartz
Owen by Kevin Henkes
Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young edited by Jack Prefutsky
Ten Nine Eight by Molly Brown
The Hungry Thing by Jon Slepian and Ann Seidler
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Mother Goose by Tomie dePaola
Big Orange Splot by Daniel Pinkwater
The Story About Ping by Majorie Flack
If You Give A Mouse A Cookie by Laura Numeroff
Carl Goes Shopping by Alexandra Day
Corduroy by Don Freeman
Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
Twenty-Six Letters and Ninety-Nine Cents by Tana Hoban
We're Going On A Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
The Salamander Room by Anne Mazer
Action Alphabet by Marty Neumeler and Byron Glazer
Alphabatics by Suse MacDonald
Anno's Alphabet by Mitsumasa Anno
Dr. Seuss (series) by Dr. Seuss
Story Songs (series) by Raffi
Clifford Books by Norman Bridwell
Little Bear by Elsa Manklin

Suggested Authors

Eric Carle, Donald Crews, Don Freeman, Paul Galdone, Pat Hutchins, Bill Martin, Mercer Mayer, Bernard Most, Robert Munsch, Maurice Sendak, Dr. Seuss, David Shannon, Audrey and Dawn Wood, Laura Numeroff, Alexandra Day, Gail Gibbons, Lee Wade, Mem Fox

Summer Reading List Entering Grade 1

Read Aloud and Read Together

Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
The Napping House by Audrey Wood
Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young
Chicken Soup With Rice by Maurice Sendak
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin
Read Aloud Rhymes For The Very Young edited by Jack Prelutsky
Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara Joosse
My Best Friend by Pat Hutchins
Koala Lou by Mem Fox
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton
Swimmy by Leo Lionni
Pickle Things by Marc Brown
Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin, Jr.

Book Series

Fiction - Subtitles

Bill Cosby Books
Mercer Mayer Books
Clifford Books by Norman Bridwell
Dr. Seuss by Dr. Seuss
Franklin Books by Paulette Bourgeois
Arthur Books by Marc Brown
Little Bear Books
Kevin Henkes Books
Rosemary Wells Books

Nonfiction

Eye Witness Books
Gail Gibbons Books
Lynne Cherry Books

Read Alone/ Independent Reading

Some children may learn to read before they are in first grade, but the majority of children will learn to read during first grade. If your child is reading independently, choose predictable books with good illustrations. Books by Syd Hoff, Arnold Lobel, Else Minarik, Cynthia Rylant, Jean Marzollo, and Dr. Seuss are a few examples. Some published books are clearly labeled “Easy Readers” or “I Can Read”, which delight beginning readers.

Suggested Authors

Eric Carle, Nancy Carlson, Babette Cole, Donald Crews, Norman Bridwell, Marc Brown, Tomie dePaola, Bernard Most, Robert Munsch, Maurice Sendak, Dr. Seuss, Lois Ehlert, Pat Hutchins, Leo Lionni, Mercer Mayer, Bernard Waber, Audrey Wood, Paul Galdone

Summer Reading List Entering Grade 2

Read Aloud and Read Together

The Popcorn Book by Tomie dePaola
The Random House Book of Poetry For Children edited by Jack Prelutsky
Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber
Miss Nelson Is Missing by Harry Allard
The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
Mary Marony and the Snake by Blanche Sims
Monarch Butterfly by Gail Gibbons
Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Lon Po Po by Ed Young
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Early Emergent

Bears on Wheels by Jan and Stan Berenstain
The Chick and the Duckling by Mirra Ginsbury
Happy Birthday, Danny & the Dinosaur by Syd Hoff
How Many Bugs in a Box by David Carter
All By Myself by Mercer Mayer
Here Are My Hands by Bill Martin
Morris the Moose by Bernard Wiseman

Emergent

Clifford's Christmas by Norman Bridwell
Clifford's Puppy Days by Norman Bridwell
Clifford's Thanksgiving Visit by Norman Bridwell
Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins
Curious George and the Pizza by Margaret Rey
Each Peach Pear Plum by Alan Ahlberg
Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehlert
Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

Beginning Transitional

Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown
Danny and the Dinosaur Go to Camp by Syd Hoff
Just Me and My Babysitter by Mercer Mayer
Just Shopping by Mercer Mayer
Nate the Great by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Nate the Great and the Missing Key by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Nate the Great and the Lost List by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Nate the Great and the Sticky Case by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Nate the Great and the Pillowcase by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Nate the Great and the Phony Clue by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Nate the Great and the Snowy Trail by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
The Chalk Box Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla
Are You My Mother? By Philip D. Eastman
Happy Birthday Sam by Pat Hutchins
Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus
Noisy Nora by Rosemary Wells

Book Series

Arthur and D.W. by Marc Brown
Berenstain Bears by Jan and Stan Berenstain
Curious George by H.A. Rey
Clifford, the Big Red Dog by Gene Zion
Magic Treehouse by Mary Pope Osborne
Frog and Toad by Arnold Lowell

Read Alone Independent Reading

And I Can Read Book (Harper Trophy)
Step Into Reading (Random House)
All Aboard Reading (Grosset and Dunlap)
Hello Reader (Scholastic)
Puffin Easy To Read (Puffin Books)
A Stepping Stone Book (Random House)

Suggested Authors

Marc Brown, Eve Bunting, Norman Bridwell, Harry Allard, Eric Code, Steven Kellog, Mercer Mayer, Donald Crews, Tomie dePaolo, Mem Fox, Pat Hutchins, Arnold Lobel, Bernard Most, Cynthia Rylant, Maurice Sendak, Dr. Seuss, William Steig

Summer Reading List Entering Grade 3

Beginning Transitional

Horrible Harry and the Ant Invasion by Suzy Kline
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
Night in the Country by Cynthia Rylant
There's a Nightmare in my Closet by Mercer Mayer
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
A Busy Year by Leo Lionni
Charlie Needs a Cloak by Tomie dePaloa
Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins
Franklin is Bossy by Bourgeois & Clark
The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle
Henry & Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant
Little Bear series by Else Minarik
Cam Jansen mysteries series by David Adler
Bunnicula Ready to Read series by James Howe

Transitional

My Brother Measures Worms by Barbara Robinson
Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale by Marcus Pfister
The Little Old Woman Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams
The Giant Jam Sandwich by John Lord
Lily's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes
The Giving Tree; Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
McGraw! Beware of Dog by Bob Balaba
Arthur series by Lillian Hoban
Commander Toad series by Jane Yolen
Dinosaur Time by Peggy Parish
Fables by Arnold Lobel
Franklin series by Bourgeois & Clark
How Much Is a Million? By David M. Schwartz
Amelia Bedelia series by Peggy Parish

Beginning Fluency

Fudge, Double Fudge, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
BFG; or Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl
Socks by Beverly Cleary
Holes by Louis Sachar
Half Magic; Magic by the Lake by Edward Eager
A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket (series)
Boundless Grace by Mary Hoffman
Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the UFO by David Adler
Dinosaurs series by Mary Pope Osborne
Don't forget the Bacon by Pat Hutchins
Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park
The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo by Judy Blume
A to Z Mysteries collection by Ron Roy

Book Series

Babysitter Book Club series by Ann Martin

Bailey School Kids series by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones

Horrible Harry series by Suzy Kline

Tales of Oliver Pig series by Jean Van Leeuwen

Puppy Patrol series by Jenny Dale

Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne

Suggested Authors

Beverly Cleary, Johanna Hurwitz, Paula Danzinger, Lionni, Rylant, Joanna Cole, Tomie dePaola, Mem Fox, Patricia Reilly Giff, Patricia Polacco, William Steig, Matt Christopher, Shel Silverstein, Avi, Dick King-Smith

Summer Reading List Entering Grade 4

Easy

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Wagon Wheels by Barbara Brenner
The Two Foolish Cats by Yoshiko Uchida
Muggie Maggie by Beverly Cleary
Alligator Alley by Irene Shultz
Arctic Tundra by Michael Forman
Bozo the Clone by Dan Greenburg
The Copper Lady by Alice and Kent Ross
The Art Lesson by Tomie dePaola

Average

Stuart Little by E. B. White
The Enormous Egg by Oliver Butterworth
The Borrowers by Mary Norton
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor B. Coerr
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
The Case of the Measled Cowboy by John Erickson
Charlie is a Chicken by Jane D. Smith
Amelia Earhart by David Lowe
Amazing But True Sports Stories by Phyllis and Zander Hollander

Challenging

Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis
Ann of Green Gables by Lucy Maude Montgomery
Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry by Mildred Taylor
Ben and Me by Robert Lawson
Tiger Woods – An American Master by Nicholas Edwards
Harry on Vacation by Dyan Sheldon
I Was a Sixth Grade Alien by Bruce Covill
Mummies and Their Mysteries by Charlotte Wilcox
Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Book Series

Boxcar stories by Gertrude Chandler Warner
Encyclopedia Brown stories by Donald J. Sobol
Strawberry Girl by Lois Lenski
Ramona series by Beverly Cleary
American Girls collection

Orphan Train Quartet series by Joan Lowery Nixon
Creative Minds series
Step Into Reading series (Level 4-easy readers)
National Geographic Children's series

Suggested Authors

The Public Library does not have all authors, but they do have some of the series books. Feel free to substitute books by the same author.

Ronald Dahl, Beverly Cleary, Laura Ingalls Wilder;

Sports: Matt Christopher, Dean Hughes, and Alfred Slote;

Adventure: Gary Paulsen, Bill Wallace, Peg Kehret, and Avi;

Funny Stories: Judy Blume, Paula Danziger, Barbara Dillon, Johanna Hurwitz, Suzy Kline, Joanna Cole, Barthe DeClements, Jerry Spinelli, Patricia Polacco;

Biographies: Jean Fritz Biographies; **Poetry:** Jack Prelutsky

**Summer Reading List
Entering Grade 5**

**Required Summer Reading
for all incoming 5th graders!**

Each student entering 5th in the fall of 2008 is required to read Thomas Rockwell's entertaining story
How to Eat Fried Worms.

How to Eat Fried Worms has been grossing out children and adults since 1973. This is the story of Billy, a ten-year-old who takes a bet that he will eat 15 worms in 15 days – all for \$50. The good part is the variety of ways Billy's friends cook up and dress up the worms. Yum!

Task: Each student must come to school the first day having read the book AND completed following items:

[Story map](#) & [Student created Bookmark](#)

[Story maps and bookmark handouts were distributed at the end of the year to all 4th graders. These handouts can also be downloaded from the fifth grade teachers' websites or picked up at the SES school office]

**Fifth Grade Suggested Summer Reading
(For students entering grade 5)**

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson

Flip, Flop Girl by Katherine Patterson

Hatchet by Gary Paulson

Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

Mississippi Bridge by Mildred D. Taylor

Crash by Jerry Spinelli

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Holes by Louis Sachar

The Ramona Series by Beverly Cleary

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary

The BFG by Roald Dahl

Matilda by Roald Dahl

The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl

Blubber by Judy Blume

Iggie's House by Judy Blume

The Fudge Series by Judy Blume

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements

The Report Card by Andrew Clements

On the Run Series by Gordan Korman

The Dive, Everest and Shipwreck Series by Gordan Korman

NEWBERY MEDAL AWARD BOOKS
For students entering grades 4 and 5

YEAR	TITLE	AUTHOR
1936	<i>Caddie Woodlaw</i>	Carol Ryrie Brink
1941	<i>Call It Courage</i>	Armstrong Sperry
1946	<i>Strawberry Girl</i>	Lois Lenski
1951	<i>Amos Fortune, Free Man</i>	Elizabeth Yates
1954	<i>...And Now Miguel</i>	Joseph Krumgold
1959	<i>The Witch Of Blackbird Pond</i>	Elizabeth George Speare
1960	<i>Onion John</i>	Joseph Krumgold
1961	<i>Island Of The Blue Dolphins</i>	Scott O'Dell
1963	<i>A Wrinkle In Time</i>	Madeleine L'Engle
1968	<i>From The Mixed-Up Files Of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i>	E.L. Konigsburg
1970	<i>Souder</i>	William Armstrong
1971	<i>Summer Of The Swans</i>	Betsy Byars
1972	<i>Mrs. Frisby And The Rats Of Nimh</i>	Robert C. O'Brien
1973	<i>Julie Of The Wolves</i>	Jean Craighead George
1975	<i>M.C. Higgins The Great</i>	Virginia Hamilton
1977	<i>Roll Of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Mildred D. Taylor
1978	<i>Bridge To Terabithia</i>	Katherine Paterson
1980	<i>A Gathering Of Days</i>	Joan W. Blos
1981	<i>Jacob Have I Loved</i>	Katherine Paterson
1984	<i>Dear Mr. Henshaw</i>	Beverly Cleary
1986	<i>Sarah, Plain And Tall</i>	Patricia MacLachlan
1987	<i>The Whipping Boy</i>	Sid Fleischman
1988	<i>Lincoln</i>	Russell Freedman
1989	<i>Joyful Noise: Poems For Two Voices</i>	Paul Fleischman
1990	<i>Number The Stars</i>	Lois Lowry
1991	<i>Maniac Magee</i>	Jerry Spinelli
1992	<i>Shiloh</i>	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
1993	<i>Missing May</i>	Cynthia Rylant
1994	<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowry
1995	<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	Sharon Creech
1996	<i>The Midwife's Apprentice</i>	Karen Cushman
1997	<i>The View From Saturday</i>	E.L. Konigsburg
1998	<i>Out Of The Dust</i>	Karen Hesse
1999	<i>Holes</i>	Louis Sachar
2000	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis
2001	<i>A Year Down Yonder</i>	Richard Peck
2002	<i>A Single Shard</i>	Linda Sue Park
2003	<i>Crispin: The Cross of Lead</i>	Avi
2004	<i>The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread</i>	Kate DiCamillo
2005	<i>Kira-Kira</i>	Cynthia Kadohata
2006	<i>Criss Cross</i>	Lynne Rae Perkins
2007	<i>The Higher Power of Lucky</i>	Susan Patron
2008	<i>Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village</i>	Laura AmySchlitz

Summer Reading List Entering Grade 6

During the long, hot summer you will need to find a cool, comfortable place to curl up with a good book. You must choose two books from the list below and have them completely read when you return to school in September. During the first two weeks of school you will be required to participate in class discussions about the books you have read and present the worksheet you completed for each of the two books. The teachers have developed the worksheet to help you focus on key elements of the books as you read. Worksheets were given to you during Step-Up Day and extra worksheets are available in the Mabelle B. Avery Middle School Office. The teachers will collect the worksheets in September.

2009 Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees

Blood on the River: James Town 1607 by Elisa Carbone

As page to Captain John Smith, 11 year-old Samuel Collier witnesses the dealings of the Virginia Company, the Powhatan tribe, and even young Pocahontas during the early days of the colonial settlement at Jamestown, Virginia.

Close Encounters of a Third-World Kind by Jennifer J. Stewart

12 year-old Annie's world is turned upside down when her father agrees to move the entire family to Nepal on a medical mission. She makes new friends, learns some important lessons, and has adventures that change her life.

Eager by Helen Fox

Would you like to live in the future where robots do all the work? All Gavin and Fleur wanted was a normal robot. Instead they have Eager, who creates more problems than he solves.

Free Baseball by Sue Corbett

Desperate to connect with his absent father, 11 year-old Felix becomes the batboy for a minor league baseball team in the hope of learning more about his famous father's game.

Golden and Grey: An Unremarkable Boy and a Rather Remarkable Ghost by Louise Arnold

Tom escapes the school bullies by teaming up with an invisible ghost.

Gossamer by Lois Lowry

This haunting story explores the mystery of dreams. Littlest One, a young Dreamgiver, tries to stop the frightening Sinistees from delivering nightmares.

The Homework Machine by Dan Gutman

Who wouldn't love a machine that does homework for you? Can four unlikely friends keep the biggest secret of their lives?

MVP* Magellan Voyage Project by Douglas Evans

Adam Story is chosen as a player in the MVP challenge. To win the four million dollar prize, Adam must circle the world in forty days – no flying allowed. Competing against other players through time zones and across continents, he faces danger and unknown risks. Get ready for the trip of a lifetime!

Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach

When Hero starts sixth grade at a new school, she meets Danny Cardova, the most popular boy. They work together to solve the mystery of the missing million dollar diamond that's hidden somewhere in Hero's house.

Three Good Deeds by Vivian Vande Velde

Howard's troublemaking backfires when he steals the eggs of a goose belonging to a witch. The witch gives him a dose of his own medicine! Maybe life as a prankster isn't all it's quacked up to be.

**Summer Reading List
Entering Grade 7**

Grade 7 Summer Reading 2008/2009

Twelve Great Reads

Ida B ...and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World by Katherine Hannigan (modern realistic fiction)

Most of Ida B's days are kind of perfect. She has a tranquil life, being home schooled by her loving parents and spending her days exploring their land and talking to her best friends, the mountain, the brook, and her family's apple trees. This all changes when Ida B's mother discovers she has cancer. Soon her hospital bills mean that Ida B's dad must sell part of their land and Ida B will have to go to regular school. Right then and there, Ida B decides to harden her heart, shut out her parents, her classmates, and the new family building a house on what used to be her apple orchard. It takes time, love, and the quiet patience of the perfect teacher before Ida B can open up her heart again.

The Convicts by Iain Lawrence (historical fiction)

After seeing his father hauled off to debtor's prison, Tom Tin sets out to take revenge on Mr. Goodfellow, the man responsible for his family's misfortunes. But the fog-filled London streets are teeming with sinister characters. Tom is mistaken for someone ominously known as the Smasher. Ultimately, Tom comes up against the cruel hand of the law. Accused of murder, Tom is given a seven-year sentence to Van Diemen's Land where he decides to escape. But if he's to succeed, his luck needs to turn.

So. B. It by Sarah Weeks (modern realistic fiction)

Heidi and her mentally challenged mother have lived in an apartment that is next to their neighbor, Bernadette, since the twelve-year-old was probably no more than a week old. Bernadette accepted and loved them from the moment they arrived at her door. Heidi struggles with knowing nothing about her father or her family history, and never having a real last name. Then she finds an old camera, which prompts her quest to learn the identity of the people in the photographs. Heidi relies on her luck, instinct, and the people she meets on the way to learn the truth about her mother and past.

Heat by Mike Lupica (modern realistic fiction)

Michael Arroyo is a 12-year-old boy with big dreams, especially for a poor Cuban refugee. He dreams of pitching in the Little League World Series and ultimately of playing in the major leagues. Michael's fastballs can be clocked at over 80 miles per hour, so he's definitely capable of throwing some heat. But sadly, Michael is also feeling the heat in his difficult life. He lost his mother to cancer at a young age, and his father died of a heart attack just a few months after coming to America. When a bitter rival spreads rumors that Michael is older than he appears, the league demands that he be benched until he can produce a birth certificate.

The Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice-Book 1) by John Flanagan (fantasy)

He had always wanted to be a warrior. The Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways, made him nervous. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now fifteen year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't realize yet is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing.

Uglies by Scott Westerfield (science fiction)

Tally has grown up in a world where, at the age of 16, everyone is given an operation that makes their faces and bodies perfect. Before the operation they are known as "uglies" and after as "pretties." After the operation they live in New Pretty Town, enjoying a life of constant pleasure. Tally can't wait. Shortly before her 16th birthday, her friend Shay tells her about the Smoke, a secret community of those who refuse the operation. When Shay runs away to join the Smoke, Tally is given a choice by the Specials, the secret police: help them find the Smoke and betray her friend, or remain an ugly forever.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne (historical fiction)

Nine year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Holocaust. He is not aware of the cruelty and suffering by the Jews. He only knows that his family has to move from his wonderful home in Berlin and now he has no-one to play with at his new home. Then he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange world on the other side of an adjoining wire fence. Like the other people there, he wears a uniform of striped pajamas. Bruno's friendship with Shmuel will take him from innocence to understanding.

Out of Patience by Brian Meehl (modern realistic fiction)

Toilets, tornados, and treasure consume twelve-year old Jake Water's life. He longs to be the first male in his family to escape Patience, Kansas, founded by his great-great-great-grandfather, who also left the place with a curse. Jake's dad, the local plumber, also has a dream: to establish the first American Toilet Museum. How embarrassing is that?

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer (modern realistic fiction)

Fourteen-year-old Hope is a great waitress. She takes pride in making people happy with good food, as does her Aunt Addie, a diner cook extraordinaire. The two of them have been a pair ever since Hope's waitress mother abandoned her as a baby. Now they have come to rural Wisconsin to run the Welcome Stairways Café for G.T. Stoop. He is dying of leukemia, but he's not dead yet. The kind restaurant owner demonstrates that when he decides to run for mayor against the corrupt Eli Millstone. The campaign leads Hope in exciting new directions: a boyfriend, a new sense of herself, and, when Addie and G.T. finally realize that they are meant for each other, the father she has always wanted. A delicious and heartwarming story.

Keeper by Mal Pete (modern realistic fiction/fantasy)

When Paul Faustino flips on his tape recorder for an exclusive interview with El Gato, the phenomenal goalkeeper who single-handedly brought his team the World Cup. the seasoned reporter quickly learns that this will be no ordinary story. Instead, the legendary El Gato narrates a spellbinding tale that begins in the South American rainforest, where a ghostly but very real mentor, the Keeper, emerges to teach a poor, gawky boy the most thrilling secrets of the game.

Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman? by Eleanor Updale (historical fiction)

In a London cellblock in 1875, career criminal Montmorency is serving time for burglary. Captured while fleeing police, Montmorency suffered several horrible wounds that attract the attention of a brilliant young doctor. When the doctor displays Montmorency's newly healed body, Montmorency overhears a presentation on the city's new sewer system that will change his life forever. Once released from prison, Montmorency uses his knowledge of the underground tunnels to steal from some of London's wealthiest neighborhoods. But in order to enjoy his new riches, he must assume an alternate personality as the drain-dwelling Scarper.

The Angel Experiment (Maximum Ride, Book 1) by James Patterson (modern realistic fiction/fantasy)

Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the Flock--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time--like when Angel, the youngest member of the Flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the School where she and the others were genetically engineered by sinister scientists. Her friends brave a journey to Death Valley, CA, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves in yet another nightmare--this one involving fighting off the half-human, half-wolf Erasers in New York City.

Summer Reading List
Entering Grade 8
2008

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body” – Joseph Addison
Graphic Organizer must be used

Just as exercise builds stronger muscles, reading builds a stronger brain. Reading helps us to better understand our world and the people in it. Reading can take you to amazing places and help you find out about anything you want to learn. Regular reading is just the smart thing to do.

Around the second week of school, you will be tested on the books you have read. Use specific story details to complete the 5 W’s organizers attached. The charts will be used to complete a test on one of the readings and to write an essay on the other.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke – 12 year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can “read” fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel “Inkheart” years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story. Challenging

The Wave by Todd Strasser. Based on a true incident, this novel reveals the powerful forces of group pressure that are initiated by a classroom experiment that gets out of hand. Moderate

Somewhere in the Darkness by Walter Dean Myers – A teenage boy accompanies his father, who has recently escaped from prison, on a trip that turns out to be a time of discovery, often painful, for them both. Moderate

Girl in Blue by Ann Rinaldi – The year is 1861. When a spirited teenager learns that she is to be married off to her despicable neighbor, she runs away from home. Disguising herself as a boy, she boldly decides to join the army – and before long is a soldier in the Civil War. Moderate

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Bette Smith – A young girl comes of age in the squalor and poverty of the Brooklyn slums. Challenging

The Land by Mildred D. Taylor – The story is set in the years following the Civil War. Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own. Moderate

Tex by S. E. Hinton – The love between two teenage brothers helps alleviate the harshness of their usually parentless life as they struggle to grow up. Moderate

Soldier’s Heart by Gary Paulsen – Eager to enlist, fifteen year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat. Easy (May be read **only** with teacher recommendation)

Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons: the Story of Phillis Wheatley by Ann Rinaldi – A fictionalized biography of the eighteenth century African woman who, as a child, was brought to New England to be a slave, and after publishing her first poem when a teenager, gained renown throughout the colonies as an important American poet. Easy (May be read **only** with teacher recommendation)

**SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH—SUMMER READING LIST**

ENTERING GRADE 9

[Graphic Organizer must be used](#)

Honors 9: Read the two * required books plus one other.

***Christie, Agatha.** *And Then There Were None* – A pathological killer systematically murders ten strangers entrapped on an island.

***Buck, Pearl.** *The Good Earth* – Modern classic of life in China as revealed through the life of one peasant family.

Bradbury, Ray. *Something Wicked This Way Comes* – October is the season of mystery and dying, and when Halloween brings the Pandemonium Shadow Show to town, two fourteen-year-old boys discover its secrets.

Gunther, John. *Death Be Not Proud* – Gunther’s moving story of his son’s courageous battle to overcome cancer.

Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small* – Warm account of the author’s first years as a veterinarian.

Hilton, James. *Lost Horizon* – Four people are brought against their will to mysterious Shangri-La, a place where no one grows old.

Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace* – Two adolescents come to understand each other and themselves after a tragic accident.

McCullers, Carson. *A Member of the Wedding* – A sensitive portrayal of twelve-year-old tomboy Frankie and the turbulent emotions triggered by her brother’s coming marriage.

College 9: Read the * required book plus one other.

Extra credit is available for those who read additional books from the list.

[Graphic Organizer must be used](#)

***Kimmel, Haven.** *A Girl Named Zippy: Growing Up Small in Mooreland Indiana* – An engaging and funny memoir about growing up in small-town America.

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451* – Unsettling view of the future in which all books are banned or burned.

Bradbury, Ray. *Something Wicked This Way Comes* – October is the season of mystery and dying, and when Halloween brings the Pandemonium Shadow Show to town, two fourteen-year-old boys discover its secrets.

Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None* – A pathological killer systematically murders ten strangers entrapped on an island.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* – The most famous adventure of the peerless detective Sherlock Holmes concerns a family living under the ancient curse of a spectral hound.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* – Christopher is mathematically gifted, screams when touched, cannot eat yellow or brown foods, and is wrongfully accused of killing his neighbor’s poodle. What follows is a unique and enlightening voyage into the world of a fifteen-year-old autistic boy as he recounts the journey to clear his name.

Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small* – Warm account of the author’s first years as a veterinarian.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island* – A thrilling story of buried treasure, piracy, and derring-do in days past.

Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine* – The Time Traveler is transported into the distant future and learns a devastating truth about humanity.

ENTERING GRADE 10

Honors 10: Read the two * required books plus one other.

[Graphic Organizer must be used](#)

***Lee, Harper.** *To Kill a Mockingbird* – The unconditioned and unconditional wisdom of children is shown to be superior in this story of conflict between black and white.

***O’Neill, Eugene.** *A Long Day’s Journey into Night (play)* – Unflinching, dramatic portrait of psychological stress.

Williams, Tennessee. *The Glass Menagerie (play)* – Williams’s drama chronicles the turmoil of Amanda Wingfield, who, clinging to another time and place, cannot help her children take their place in the real world.

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia* – Against Nebraska’s panoramic landscape, Cather recreates the life of an immigrant girl who becomes the epitome of strong and dignified womanhood.

Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms* – One of the most poignant love stories ever written. Set in World War I Italy.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees* – Taylor Greer flees her harsh life in Appalachia and heads west in this memorable novel of love and friendship, abandonment and belonging.

Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye* – Cynical and humorous Holden Caulfield, kicked out of yet another prep school, takes a journey through New York City and shares his observations about life, love, phonies, and much more in this iconic novel of the coming-of-age experience.

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath* – Powerful chronicle of dispossessed landowners who leave Oklahoma during the Great Depression and head for the “promised land” of California.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple* – Triumphant novel of a black woman’s life in the South.

Wright, Richard. *Native Son* – Powerful novel about a black youth from the Chicago slums victimized because of his race. It reflects the forces of poverty, injustice, race and class that continue to shape society.

College 10: *Read one of the required books* plus one other.
Graphic Organizer must be used

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees – Set in South Carolina in 1964, this novel tells the story of fourteen-year-old Lily Owens, who leaves home with her fierce-hearted black “stand-in-mother” in search of the secret to her mother’s past.

Shaara, Michael. *The Killer Angels – This Pulitzer prize-winning novel provides a deep understanding of the events at the Battle of Gettysburg. Shaara’s account of the three most important days of the Civil War features excellent characterizations and reflects the bravery of the Union and Rebel soldiers at Little Round Top.

Picoult, Jodi. *My Sister’s Keeper* – Thirteen-year-old Anna Fitzgerald is suing her parents for emancipation, and if she wins, her sister, Kate, will die. Picoult’s dramatic and suspenseful novel explores the bond of family, the rights of the individual, and the uncertainty of life.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees* – Taylor Greer flees her harsh life in Appalachia and heads west in this memorable novel of love and friendship, abandonment and belonging.

Rinaldi, Ann. *A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials* – Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.

Asinof, Eliot. *Eight Men Out: The Black Sox and the 1919 World Series* – It’s all here: the players, the shame, and the damage the 1919 World Series caused America’s national pastime.

Gaines, Ernest J. *A Lesson Before Dying* – Tells of the relationship forged between a young black man on death row and his teacher in 1940s Louisiana. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting.

McBride, James. *The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to his White Mother* – Deals with issues of race and identity and what family really means.

O’Neill, Eugene. *A Long Day’s Journey into Night (play)* – Unflinching, dramatic portrait of psychological stress.

ENTERING GRADE 11

Honors 11: Read the two * required books plus one other.

White, T.H. *The Once and Future King – Arthurian legend; focuses on human weakness, dreams versus reality, hungering for an ideal, might versus right. Begins with the story of “The Sword in the Stone.”

Orwell, George. *1984 – A chilling, prophetic vision of a totalitarian “future” which, in many respects, has come to pass.

McCourt, Frank. *Angela’s Ashes* – *Angela’s Ashes* follows the experiences of young Frankie and his family as they try against all odds to escape the poverty endemic in the slums of pre-war Limerick.

Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility* – Two high-spirited sisters search for true love in a strait-laced society.

Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights* – A savage, tormented orphan falls in love with the daughter of his benefactor.

Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist* – The moving tale of an orphan who must make his way through the horrors of London’s sinister underworld.

Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver’s Travels* – Generations learn the failings of man from his travel story to fantastic lands.

College 11: Read the * required book plus one other.

du Maurier, Daphne. *Rebecca – Chronicles the nameless narrator’s marriage to Maxim de Winter, which is overshadowed by the memory of his first wife, Rebecca, who was killed in a mysterious sailing accident.

Orwell, George. *1984* – A chilling, prophetic vision of a totalitarian “future” which, in many respects, has come to pass.

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre* – The searching portrayal of a passionate mid-nineteenth-century woman.

Greene, Graham. *The Tenth Man* – The moral struggle of a lawyer held prisoner during WWII who trades his wealth for his life, letting another man die in his place.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Grey* – Dorian Grey is tempted into a cynical and amoral life with his willingness to sell his soul for vanity.

Shakespeare, William. *All’s Well that Ends Well* (play) – Comedy of the triumph of love over obstacles.

Academic 11: Read the one required book *and any other one of the following books (Students must complete the graphic organizers for both books).

***Murdock, Catherine.** *Dairy Queen* – After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Cormier, Robert. *The Rag and Bone Shop* – Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

Halberstam, David. *Firehouse* (Non-fiction) – "In the firehouse, the men not only live and eat with each other, they play sports together, go off to drink together, help repair one another's house, and, most important, share terrifying risks; their loyalties to each other must, by the demands of the dangers they face, be instinctive and absolute." This is the story of the dozen men from FDNY Engine 40 Ladder 35 who were lost at the World Trade Center on 9/11/01, and the morning that united them forever.

Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass* – Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, provokes unexpected violence when he turns the school nerd into Prince Charming. "Suspenseful, disturbing..." (Publisher's Weekly).

Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye* – Cynical and humorous Holden Caulfield, kicked out of yet another prep school, takes a journey through New York City and shares his observations about life, love, phonies, and much more in this iconic novel of the coming-of-age experience.

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* – The author captures the voice of a boy teetering on the brink of adulthood. He's a wallflower—shy and introspective, and intelligent beyond his years, if not very savvy in the social arts.

O' Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried* – The protagonist, who is named [Tim O'Brien](#), begins by describing an event that occurred in the middle of his Vietnam experience. *The Things They Carried* catalogs the variety of things his fellow soldiers in the Alpha Company brought on their missions.

Kerr, M.E. *Gentlehands.* – There were two people in Buddy's life. One he loved. The other he had to betray.

Sebold, Alice. *The Lovely Bones* – Sebold's haunting and heartbreaking debut novel, *The Lovely Bones*, unfolds from heaven, where "life is a perpetual yesterday" and where Susie narrates and keeps watch over her grieving family and friends, as well as her brazen killer and the sad detective working on her case.

ENTERING GRADE 12

Advanced Placement English 12: Read the two * required books plus one other

***Paton, Alan.** *Cry, The Beloved Country* – The most famous and important novel in South Africa's history, an impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law. It is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. The novel is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

***Shakespeare, William.** *Othello (play)* – Tragedy about distrust and jealousy.

Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey* – The story of Catherine Morland, who is mistakenly invited to an isolated country manor, where she falls in love with the young man of the house.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man* – One of the lasting masterpieces of American literature. It chronicles the existential journey of an unnamed black man attempting to discover his identity and role in a hostile and confusing world that refuses to acknowledge his existence.

Hardy, Thomas. *Return of the Native* – Thomas Hardy's sixth novel and probably his best known. In fact, many critics assert that Eustacia Vye is one of the most memorable characters in English literature. The story focuses on the lives and loves of residents in the fictional county of Wessex, England, a setting based upon on the rural area where Hardy was raised.

Heller, Joseph. *Catch 22* – A savagely funny war novel: military madness and civilian insanity in World War II.

Joyce, James. *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* – Story of an Irish Catholic boy growing up in Dublin.

Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front* – Experiences of bewildered German soldiers fighting and suffering through the chaos of World War I.

Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina* – Set in nineteenth-century Russia, the moving story of people whose emotions conflict with the dominant social mores of their time.

College 12: Read any two from the following list:

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* – Child soldiers are being used as human pawns in dozens of conflicts around the world. Indeed, the figures are staggering: as many as 300,000 children are currently fighting in wars. Behind these distressing figures, of course, are real-life children, some as young as eight. Journalistic reconstructions can take us only so far into the lives of these boys; we had to wait for this firsthand account by Sierra Leone native Ishmael Beah to truly understand this ghastly, life-shattering practice. Beah was only 13 when he was handed an AK-47 and sent off to the killing fields. This book is a bracing memoir about a survivor in a world gone mad.

(Available in paperback on August 5th.)

Hamill, Pete. *Snow in August* – Story of a young Catholic boy named Michael in Brooklyn who, after the death of his father in WWII, builds an unlikely friendship with a poor rabbi. The rabbi learns about America and baseball. Michael learns about life and the hard choices one must make to maintain a strong faith and a sense of self-respect.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner* – Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the

present, *The Kite Runner* is the unforgettable story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Raised in the same household, Amir and Hassan grow up in different worlds: Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man, while Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, is a Hazara -- a shunned ethnic minority. Their intertwined lives, and their fates, reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them. When Amir and his father flee the country for a new life in California, Amir thinks that he has escaped his past. And yet he cannot leave the memory of Hassan behind him.

Mortenson, Greg and David Oliver Relin. – *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*--On the afternoon of September 2, 1993, Greg Mortenson realized that he had failed in his attempt to climb K2, the world's second-highest mountain. But disappointment was the least of his problems. Emaciated, exhausted, thoroughly disoriented, and suffering from edema, his grip on life was loosening. He was taken in and nursed back to health by the impoverished populace of a remote Pakistani village. Grateful, he promised to return someday to build them a school. *Three Cups of Tea* is the story of that promise and the story of how one man changed the world, one school at a time.

Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country* – The most famous and important novel in South Africa's history, an impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law. It is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. The novel is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

Shakespeare, William. *Othello* (play) – Tragedy about distrust and jealousy.

Shaw, George Bernard. *Pygmalion* (play) – A London flower girl is transformed into a lady by a professor of phonetics.

Sophocles. *Oedipus Rex* (play) – The first of three tragic plays which tells the downfall of Oedipus, King of Thebes.

Wharton, Edith. *Summer* – Trapped in her existence in the decaying town of North Dormer, and living with her much older guardian under the shadow of a mysterious personal past, 18-year-old Charity Royall finds her life changed when a young architect walks into the library where she works. This story is about a young girl's rite of passage into adulthood.

Williams, Tennessee. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (play) – A drama of greed, frustration, and guilt in the emotionally charged atmosphere of a family reunion.

Academic English 12: *Read the required book plus one other.

***Steinbeck, John.** *Of Mice and Men* – George has agreed to help take care of Lennie. Lennie has difficulty learning, and he doesn't know his own strength. What seems like a fun task at first for George transforms into an enormous responsibility.

Flinn, Alex. *Breathing Underwater* – Alex has been informed that anger management classes are mandatory, but he thinks this is ridiculous. Was he really out of control? Alex reveals his side of the story through his journals and flashbacks of time spent with his girlfriend, Caitlin. The male perspective of a challenging high school relationship is revealed.

Holloway, Monica. *Driving with Dead People* – Monica's life feels like it's consumed with disaster with her father's abuse and her Mom's selfishness. Monica finds hope with her friend, Julie. They ironically become closer as they help with the family business—death. Julie's dad is the town mortician, and this experience changes their outlook. This memoir will lead you through devastation but also fill you with pride as Monica prevails over adversity.

Sebold, Alice. *Lucky* – Sebold is also the author of the best seller, *Lovely Bones*. *Lucky* is a memoir of a college freshman who endures a traumatic, life-altering event. Her struggle for understanding, hope, and resolution is a passionate account.

Spielman, Art. *Maus* – A holocaust survivor's tale that will capture your attention quickly. A graphic novel which documents the horrific and terrifying experience but also the resilience and courage of many. The cartoon format, which incorporates cats to represent the Nazis and mice to represent the Jews, does not minimize the experience, but rather conveys the remarkable history in a revolutionary and dynamic portrayal.