



Summer Reading List 2008

There are hundreds of books to choose from at your local library or neighborhood bookstore. Students may choose what they want to read.

SIZZLIN' NEW BOOKS

- Title/Author: ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*** ~ Alexie, Sherman.
Summary: Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.
- Title/Author: ***Cures for Heartbreak*** ~ Rabb, M. E.
Summary: As she navigates adolescence, ninth-grader Mia must deal with her mother's recent death and her father's illness while she searches for friendship and love in the world around her.
- Title/Author: ***The Plain Janes*** ~ Castelluci, Cecil.
Summary: After a bombing in the city, Jane's parents move to a suburb where she befriends three outcasts--all named Jane--and starts a group called People Loving Art in Neighborhoods, which tries to enrich their community with art but instead is viewed as a threat.
- Title/Author: ***Slam*** ~ Hornby, Nick.
Summary: At the age of fifteen, Sam Jones's girlfriend gets pregnant and Sam's life of skateboarding and daydreaming about Tony Hawk changes drastically.
- Title/Author: ***My Mother the Cheerleader: a novel*** ~ Sharenow, Rob.
Summary: Thirteen-year-old Louise uncovers secrets about her family and her neighborhood during the violent protests over school desegregation in 1960 New Orleans.
- Title/Author: ***Tyrell*** ~ Booth, Coe.
Summary: 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.

RECOMMENDED READS

- Title/Author: ***The Color Purple*** ~ Walker, Alice.
Summary: Tells the story of two African-American sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the south, in the medium of their letters to each other and in Celie's case, the desperate letters she begins, "Dear God."
- Title/Author: ***Witch Child*** ~ Rees, Celia.
Summary: In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.
- Title/Author: ***Hero*** ~ Rottman, S. L.
Summary: After years of abuse from his mother and neglect from his father, ninth-grader Sean Parker is headed for trouble when he is sent to do community service at a farm owned by an old man who teaches Sean that he can take control of his own life.
- Title/Author: ***Outsiders*** ~ Hinton, S. E.
Summary: The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.
- Title/Author: ***Head Case*** ~ Aronson, Sarah.
Summary: Seventeen-year-old Frank Marder struggles to deal with the aftermath of an accident he had while driving drunk that killed two people, including his girlfriend, and left him paralyzed from the neck down.
- Title/Author: ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** ~ Wilde, Oscar.
Summary: Jack Worthing creates a fictitious brother Earnest who lives in London to escape his dull country routine, but finds the lie backfiring when he falls in love.
- Title/Author: ***Robinson Crusoe*** ~ Defoe, Daniel.
Summary: During one of his several adventurous voyages in the 1600's, an Englishman becomes the sole survivor of a shipwreck and lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.