

# Sweet Home High School



## Summer Reading

2008

### Books to enjoy this summer

*Summer reading should be relaxing and fun. To make our list we asked the experts - students in grades 9-12 - to suggest books they enjoyed. The recommendations listed here included comments: "if you thought the movie was good – the book is so much better!", "best book ever!" and "really interesting; makes you want to keep reading". No matter what grade a student is in, a good book will find its reader. To help you find a great one, we present our 2008 Summer Reading List - for students, by students:*

Anderson, Laurie Halse

#### Speak

Melinda Sordino, a sharp, witty "everygirl" turns into a social pariah after busting an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. The safest place to be is alone, inside her own head. But even that's not safe. There's something she's trying not to think about, something about the night of the party that, if she let it in, would blow her carefully constructed disguise to smithereens. And then she would have to speak the truth.

Anderson, Laurie Halse

#### Prom

High school senior Ashley Hannigan seems to be the only one in her urban Philadelphia high school who doesn't care about prom. But when the faculty advisor get busted for taking the prom money, Ashley suddenly finds herself with the huge responsibility of putting together a gala dance on an extremely low budget.

Beah, Ishmael

#### A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States.

Carey, Janet Lee

Dragon's Keep

In 1145 AD, as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, while hiding from her people the dragon's claw she was born with that reflects only one of her mother's dark secrets.

Gruen, Sara

Water For Elephants

An evocative and compelling tale of the frenzied, lawless and cruelly beautiful world of the Depression-era traveling circus. From the striking first scene to the unexpected ending, readers will be mesmerized.

Hosseini, Khaled

A Thousand Splendid Suns

A novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban, which tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband.

Klass, David

Firestorm

After learning that he has been sent from the future for a special purpose, eighteen-year-old Jack receives help from an unusual dog and a shape-shifting female fighter.

Koertge, Ron

Strays

Sixteen-year old Ted, orphaned when his parents are killed in a car crash, identifies more with animals than people—especially strays whose situation Ted equates with his own, but as he starts to settle in to his new foster home and school, he forms bonds with his two foster brothers and gradually comes back in touch with the human race.

Lyga, Barry

The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl

A fifteen-year-old "geek" who keeps a list of the high school jocks and others who torment him, and pours his energy into creating a great graphic novel, encounters Kyra, Goth Girl, who helps change his outlook on almost everything, including himself.

Meyer, Stephanie

New Moon

Haunted by darkness and despair following the departure of her beloved Edward, Bella Swan must adjust to life without vampire companions—but with a new source of fascination and danger.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert

The Off Season

In this gripping sequel to the award-winning DAIRY QUEEN, D.J. Schwenk's life takes a sharp downhill turn after the promising beginning to her junior year as she staggers under the weight of caring for her badly injured brother, her responsibilities on the dairy farm, a changing relationship with her friend Brian, and her own athletic aspirations.

Patterson, James

Maximum Ride #3: Saving the World & Other Extreme Sports

Max and her flock of human/bird hybrids are back for their third book of non-stop action and adventure. Once again, they find themselves up against enormous challenges, like escaping the evil scientists and saving the world. But can they survive their biggest challenge—a disagreement that splits the flock into two separate groups on opposite sides of the planet?

Resau, Laura

Red Glass

Sixteen-year-old Sophie has been frail and delicate since her premature birth, but discovers her true strength during a journey through Mexico, where the six-year-old orphan her family hopes to adopt was born, and to Guatemala, where her would-be boyfriend hopes to find his mother and plans to remain.

Smith, Roland Peak  
A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Sonnenblick, Jordan Notes From the Midnight Driver  
After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love and forgiveness.

Sparks, Nicholas Dear John  
Internationally bestselling author Nicholas Sparks explores the complexities of love—how it survives time and heartbreak, and how it transforms us forever—in this incredibly moving novel about a young couple whose commitment to one another is put to the test.

Westerfield, Scott Specials  
In this fast-paced last book of Scott Westerfield's trilogy, Tally has been remade into a special Special called a Cutter, dedicated to defending the city from its enemies. Now she embarks on the most urgent quest of her life: saving Zane while destroying New Smoke. Along the way she absorbs truths about humanity, civilization, and herself.

Zarr, Sara Story of a Girl  
During the summer after her sophomore year, Deanna Lambert tries to come to terms with the reputation with which she was slapped in the eighth grade when she was caught by her father in the backseat of a car with a high school senior, and struggles with her still-strained relationship with her father and her changing feelings for her best friend, Jason.

### **Perennial Favorites:**

Anonymous	Go Ask Alice
Brashares, Ann	The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Second Summer of the Sisterhood Girls in Pants: The Third Summer of the Sisterhood
Card, Orson Scott	Anything in the Ender's series
Dessen, Sarah	The Truth About Forever This Lullaby
Johnson, Angela	First Part Last
King, Stephen	The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon The Gunslinger The Stand
Krakauer, Jon	Into Thin Air: a Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster
Martel, Yann	The Life of Pi
Myers, Walter D.	Monster
Orwell, George	Animal Farm
Rowling, J.K.	Harry Potter series
Sebold, Alice	Lovely Bones
Sparks, Nicholas	Bend in the Road The Notebook A Walk to Remember