

**INCOMING TWELFTH GRADE: SUMMER READING LIST**

- Ackerman, Diane                      **The Zookeeper's Wife**                      **NON-FICTION**  
During World War II the director of the Warsaw zoo and his wife hide hundreds of Jews and members of the underground.
- Allende, Isabelle                      **Paula**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
As her daughter Paula lies in a coma, Allende pens the history of their family in hopes of sharing it with her daughter when she awakens.
- Alvarez, Julia                      **In the Time of the Butterflies**                      **NOVEL**  
In a novel based on history, Dede, the only survivor of four sisters called the Mariposas or butterflies, tells the story of the women's courage in helping to liberate the Dominican Republic from the rule of the country's dictator Trujillo.
- Armstrong, Lance                      **It's Not About the Bike**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
Compelling story of Lance Armstrong, the world-famous winner of the Tour de France bicycle race, and his fight against cancer.
- Axline, Virginia                      **Dibs in Search of Self**                      **NON-FICTION**  
A withdrawn, lonely child is brought back to the world of other children by a skilled and compassionate therapist.
- Bahrapour, Tara                      **To See and See Again**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
Moving account of an immigrant girl living between two cultures—Iran and the United States.
- Bates, Judy Fong                      **Midnight at the Dragon Café**                      **NOVEL**  
Su-Jen leaves China with her mother to join her father already in Canada, but soon discovers dark secrets that threaten her family's stability.
- Beah, Ishmael                      **A Long Way Gone**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
A former child soldier from Sierra Leone describes his drug-crazed killing spree and his return to humanity.
- Boylan, James Finney                      **Getting In**                      **NOVEL**  
Three adults and four high school seniors undertake a journey of self-discovery when they set off in a Winnebago on a tour of Eastern colleges.
- Buck, Pearl                      **Imperial Woman**                      **NOVEL**  
Tzu-Hsi, imperial concubine, ruthlessly fights her way to the top and becomes the last empress of China in this novel based on history.
- Bunting, Josiah                      **All Loves Excelling**                      **NOVEL**

Amanda Bahringer, a bright student at a prestigious boarding school, struggles to measure up to everyone's demands, as she tries to gain admission to Dartmouth.

Conover, Ted                      New Jack: Guarding Sing Sing                      NON-FICTION  
A reporter spends a year as a prison guard at Sing Sing.

Corwin, Miles                      And Still We Rise                      NON-FICTION  
The author describes a year spent with a class of high school seniors enrolled in a gifted program in south-central Los Angeles, one of America's poorest and most crime-ridden neighborhoods in the United States.

Cox, Lynne    Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer  
BIOGRAPHY  
Lynne Cox chronicles her quest to swim the most challenging waters in the world, including the Bering Sea, the Strait of Magellan, the Cape of Good Hope, and the coast of Antarctica.

Crister, Greg                      Fat Land                      NON-FICTION  
Describes how Americans have become the fattest people in the world.

Crutcher, Chris                      Deadline                      NOVEL  
When high school senior Ben Wolf learns he has one year left to live, he is determined to live it to the fullest.

Diamant, Anita                      The Red Tent                      NOVEL  
The life of Dinah, daughter of the Biblical figures Jacob and Leah, is depicted in this novel based on an episode from the Book of Genesis.

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee    Sister of My Heart                      NOVEL  
Anju and Sudha are cousins raised as sisters in an upper caste Calcutta family, but their bonds are tested when Sudha learns a dark family secret.

Dunn, Mark                      Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters                      NOVEL  
The language-loving inhabitants of a South Carolina island interpret the falling of the letter "Z" from a monument as a divine warning not to use the letter any longer. But catastrophe is imminent when the other letters in the monument—which contains the entire alphabet—begin falling as well.

Emecheta, Buchi                      Bride Price                      NOVEL  
Aku-nna, a young Ibo girl, and Chike, her teacher, fall in love despite tribal custom forbidding their romance.

Feinstein, John                      Last Dance                      NON-FICTION  
Behind the scenes account of March Madness and the Final Four.

- Fiedler, Lisa**                      **Dating Hamlet**                      **NOVEL**  
 In a story based on the Shakespearean play, Ophelia describes her relationship to Hamlet and recounts the events following the murder of Hamlet's father.
- Flinn, Alexandra**                      **Breathing Underwater**                      **NOVEL**  
 Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.
- Forsyth, Frederick**                      **Avenger**                      **NOVEL**  
 When a college student disappears and is killed in Bosnia, attorney Calvin Dexter uses his skills acquired as a former CIA agent to avenge the crime.
- Green, Alan**                      **Animal Underworld**                      **NON-FICTION**  
 Exposes the illegal trade in exotic and endangered animal species.
- Gruen, Sara**                      **Water for Elephants**                      **NOVEL**  
 A young man—and an elephant—save a Depression era circus.
- Haddon, Mark**    **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**    **NOVEL**  
 A brilliant yet autistic teenager searches for the killer of his neighbor's dog and in the process makes discoveries about his own life.
- Hansen, Eric**                      **Stranger in the Forest**                      **NON-FICTION**  
 With little more than a pair of running shoes, a knife and shotgun shells for barter, Hansen plunges into the jungles of Borneo for ten months.
- Herriot, James**                      **All Creatures Great and Small**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
 Warm and joyful memoirs of a veterinarian in Yorkshire, England.
- Hosseini, Khaled**                      **A Thousand Splendid Suns**                      **NOVEL**  
 Story of two women set against the backdrop of the volatile events in the last thirty years of Afghanistan's history.
- Jordan, Robert**                      **Eye of the World**                      **FANTASY**  
 In this first book of the Wheel of Time series Rand al-Thor and his companions flee from a magical terror.
- Ishiguro, Kazuo**                      **Never Let Me Go**                      **SCIENCE FICTION**  
 In a seemingly idyllic British boarding school, students are raised to be organ donors.
- Kerouac, Jack**                      **The Dharma Bums**                      **NOVEL**

Novel based on the experiences the writer had during the mid-1950's while in California, after he'd become interested in the Zen way.

- Korman, Gordon**                      **Jake, Reinvented**                      **NOVEL**  
When Jake Garrett arrives at F. Scott Fitzgerald High, the students immediately take a liking to him, but when a dark secret is revealed, the same students begin to fear him.
- Kosko, Bart**                              **Noise**                                      **NON-FICTION**  
Endlessly fascinating book about the concept of noise.
- Lebert, Benjamin**                      **Crazy**                                      **NOVEL**  
A partially paralyzed teen in a remedial boarding school gets most of his education in after school hours with five fellow outcasts.
- Le Couteur, Penny**    **Napoleon's Buttons: 17 Molecules that Changed History**                      **NON-FICTION**  
Chemically, tin falls apart in very cold temperatures. That Napoleon's army used tin for many ordinary items, such as buttons, may have hastened its defeat by the Russian Army. The authors recount sixteen more fascinating stories of how chemistry changed history.
- Levitt, Steven and Stephen Dubner**                      **Freakonomics**                      **NON-FICTION**  
In a series of stories, the authors discuss the riddles of everyday life and how people get what they want or need when others want or need the same thing.
- Lewis, Michael**                              **The Blind Side**                                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
A dying woman's wish leads an abused teenager from the streets of Memphis to a loving family, an education and a professional football career.
- Malcolm X**                                      **The Autobiography of Malcolm X**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
Traces the transformation of a controversial Black Muslim figure from street hustler to religious and national leader.
- Markham, Beryl**                              **West with the Night**                                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
Markham recalls her childhood in Kenya, Africa and love of the skies that culminates in her solo flight across the Atlantic.
- Martel, Yann**                                      **Life of Pi**                                      **NOVEL**  
Shipwrecked while emigrating to Canada, 16-year-old Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted hyena, a seasick orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger.
- Martinez, Manuel Luis**                      **Drift**                                      **NOVEL**  
Robert Lomos, who has been abandoned by his parents, has devised a plan to put his family back together again.

- McBride, James**                      **The Color of Water**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
 A black man pays tribute to his eccentric, determined white mother.
- McCarthy, Cormac**                      **The Road**                      **NOVEL**  
 A father and son wander through a post-apocalyptic landscape.
- McCormick, Patricia**                      **Sold**                      **NOVEL**  
 When she is tricked by her stepfather and sold into prostitution, a Nepalese girl from an impoverished family, becomes submerged in a nightmare where her only comfort is the friendship she forms with other girls.
- Miller, Logan and Noah Miller**                      **Either You're in or You're in the Way**  
**NONFICTION**  
 Two brothers describe the making of their film "Touching Hope."
- Ming, Yao**                      **Yao: A Life in Two Worlds**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
 Autobiography of Yao, the seven-foot-four-inch all-star center with the Houston Rockets.
- Mortenson, Greg**                      **Three Cups of Tea**                      **NON-FICTION**  
 A former climber builds schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- Myers, Walter Dean**                      **Sunrise over Fallujah**                      **FICTION**  
 Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and finds his time there profoundly changes him.
- Namioka, Lensey**                      **An Ocean Apart, a World Away**                      **NOVEL**  
 Despite the odds facing her decision to become a doctor in 1920s Nanking, China, teenaged Yanyan leaves her family to study at Cornell University where, along with hard work, she finds prejudice and loneliness as well as friendship and a new sense of accomplishment.
- Ondaatje, Michael**                      **Running in the Family**                      **BIOGRAPHY**  
 Story of the author's youth in Sri Lanka surrounded by his eccentric family.
- Pipher, Mary**                      **Reviving Ophelia**                      **NON-FICTION**  
 Discusses how society forces adolescent girls into roles they do not choose.
- Preston, Richard**                      **The Hot Zone**                      **NON-FICTION**  
 A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.
- Roach, Mary**                      **Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers**                      **NON-FICTION**  
 Factual yet sometimes funny account of how we treat the dead.

- Rodriguez, Deborah**                      **Kabul Beauty School**                      **NON-FICTION**  
Rodriguez chronicles her efforts to help establish Afghanistan's first modern beauty school and training salon.
- Sacks, Oliver**                              **Uncle Tungsten**                              **BIOGRAPHY**  
Sacks becomes enthralled with chemistry thanks to an uncle who is in the tungsten business.
- Shute, Nevil**                                **A Town Like Alice**                              **NOVEL**  
During World War II an Australian prisoner of war and a young woman who miraculously survives a Japanese "death walk" find love.
- Seierstad, Asne**                            **Bookseller of Kabul**                            **NON-FICTION**  
Recounts the author's experience while staying with a bookseller named Sultan Khan and his family in Afghanistan just after the fall of the Taliban.
- Sinclair, April**                            **Coffee Will Make You Black**                      **NOVEL**  
A spunky, sensitive high school student is torn between the traditional values of her parents and her burning desire to experience the world.
- Steinberg, Jacques**                      **The Gatekeepers**                              **NON-FICTION**  
Fascinating look at how a prestigious Eastern college determines who will be admitted to its freshman class.
- Tan, Amy**                                    **The Kitchen God's Wife**                      **NOVEL**  
As Winnie describes her life in China, her daughter Pearl finds she has as much to learn about herself as she does about her mother.
- Tey, Josephine**                            **Daughter of Time**                              **NOVEL**  
While a patient in a London hospital, Police Inspector Alan Grant becomes fascinated with the legend of Richard III, the evil hunchback of British history accused of murdering his young nephews.
- Townsend, Sue**                            **The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole**                      **NOVEL**  
Adrian Mole, a British schoolboy, chronicles his adolescent "agonies" in this comic novel in diary form.
- Turow, Scott**                                **One L**    **NON-FICTION**  
Turow keeps a journal of his first year as a student at Harvard Law School.
- Uris, Leon**                                 **QB VII**    **NOVEL**  
In this fast paced thriller, a medical doctor sues the author of a book that accuses him of crimes against humanity.
- Wallace, Rich**                              **Wrestling Sturbridge**                              **NOVEL**

Stuck in a small town where no one ever leaves and relegated by his wrestling coach to sit on the bench while his best friend becomes state champion, Ben decides to take action.

- Walls, Jeannette                      The Glass Castle                      BIOGRAPHY  
Shocking account of the author's childhood living with two eccentric parents in conditions of great poverty.
- Werber, Bernard                      Empire of the Ants                      SCIENCE FICTION  
Two ants, a warrior and a young female destined to be a queen, set out on a perilous journey to save their comrades from a powerful new weapon.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita                      Fast Talk on a Slow Track                      NOVEL  
Fast talking Denzel Watson finds his street smarts tested when he spends the summer at Princeton University.
- Winchester, Simon                      The Professor and the Madman                      NON-FICTION  
Story of how the Oxford English Dictionary came to be compiled with the help of an American madman locked up in an institution for the insane.
- Zusack, Markus                      I Am the Messenger                      NOVEL  
After Ed, an aimless nineteen-year-old cab driver, foils a bank robber, he begins to receive mysterious messages telling him to intervene in the lives of strangers.