

Summer Reading - Recommended Reading Titles by Grade

Entering Grade 9:

Non – fiction:

The Color of Water (McBride) The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, —and she viewed her children as the “color of water”.

Say You’re One of Them (Akpan)

A collection of short stories by Nigerian-born Akpan invites readers into a world of beauty and heartbreak where young people in the throes of adolescence struggle to survive harrowing violence and tragedy.

Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team ... (St. John)

This young people's edition is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable coach.

Fiction

Harlem Hustle (McDonald)

Abandoned to the streets to raise himself, Eric Samson knows life won't be easy, beginning with the choices he must make. The fast cash of the streets still tempts him, but the threat of getting locked up - again - is daunting. Maybe Eric's way out is as Harlem Hustle, the rapper he dreams of being.

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky (Durrrow)

Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I., becomes the sole survivor of a family tragedy after a fateful morning on their Chicago rooftop.

Entering Grade 10:

Non-fiction:

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Kamkwamba)

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water.

Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices (Perkins)

Using humor as the common denominator, a multicultural cast of YA authors steps up to the mic to share stories touching on race.

Laughing At My Nightmare (Burcaw)

In this focused, intelligent and hilarious memoir, the author recalls the endured experiences of living with spinal muscular atrophy

Fiction:

The Book Thief (Zusak)

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Eleanor & Park (Rowell)

A book about two people who just really, really like each other and who believe that they can overcome any obstacle standing in the way of their happiness

Summer Reading - Recommended Reading Titles by Grade

Entering Grade 11:

Non-fiction:

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking (Cain)

In our American culture that values extroversion, the value of “quiet” people is often overlooked, but the one third of the population that fits the definition of introvert has much to offer.

The Blood of Heroes: The 13-day Struggle for the Alamo -- and the Sacrifice That Forged a Nation. (Donovan)

Exhaustively researched and based on new primary sources in U.S. and Mexican archives, this book is the definitive account of this epic battle and is populated with larger-than-life characters, audacity, valor, and redemption.

Fiction:

All the Light We Cannot See (Doerr)

This National Book Award Finalist is about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France trying to survive the devastation of World War II.

The Book of Unknown Americans (Henriquez)

The story takes place in a run-down apartment building in Delaware, home to nine families who arrived from various South and Central American countries, each looking to better the lives of the next generation.

Code Name Verity (Wein)

In exchange for a temporary stay of execution and lesser forms of torture, a young female spy captured in Nazi occupied France writes a confession of her activities in the Resistance. Her story is that of two women who should never have crossed paths, yet were destined to become the best of friends, embarking upon a covert mission that would determine which of them would live or die.

Entering Grade 12:

Non-fiction:

Moonwalking With Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything (Foer)

Journalist Joshua Foer’s informative book on human memory is as entertaining as it is educational. He expounds on the history of human memory and chronicles his experience of training to become the 2006 USA Memory Champion.

The Grand Design (Hawking & Mlodinow)

The authors present a new discussion of the laws of the universe and the nature of reality. The journey includes thoughts of the great philosophers and scientists over the centuries as well as questions such as “Are the laws of nature suspended when miracles occur?” Well-placed, clever cartoons provide balance to the weighty discussions.

Fiction:

Fall of Giants. (Follett)

A historical fiction epic that follows the lives of five interrelated families – American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh – around the time of World War I.

And the Mountains Echoed: A Novel (Hosseini)

Pari and Abdullah are siblings and best friends. When their father takes them across the desert in a red wagon to Kabul, Abdullah loses Pari and is forced to return to the village without her. The children live separate lives, but Abdullah never loses hope that he will find Pari. The children’s separate lives unfold with incidents of love and hate, bravery and cowardice, want and fulfillment.

Where’d You Go Bernadette: A Novel (Semple)

When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her. Alex Award 2013

Dear Students and Parents,

We know that readers use literature to help them understand themselves and their world. One major goal of the PHS English Department is to help students develop the passion and reading skills necessary to become life-long readers. We work on this throughout the school year; however, much of the students' reading material is selected for them by us.

The summer reading program expands the reach of this goal beyond the classroom and offers students guidance for their independent reading. This flyer is designed to offer students a variety of resources that will help them discover their personal reading preferences and broaden their reading horizons.

Perhaps this summer, the whole family can share a good book!



Happy Reading!
English Teachers



Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: How many books should I read over the summer?
A: It is recommended that you read at least **one** book to be prepared for initial assignments in your English class next year.
- Q: Can I read a different summer reading book than the one designated for my grade level?
A: As reading for pleasure is a reflection of personal interest and choice, you may choose a book from any of the lists provided.
- Q: Where can I find books to read?
A: You can use the links provided on this handout, or you can visit your local library for recommended summer reading titles.



Pomperaug High School Summer Reading for Students 2017-2018

Ways to find books...

The Library Media Specialists at PHS compiled these lists:

[2017 Book Awards](#)

[Best Non-Fiction](#)

[PHS - Ways to find books](#)

Additionally, these links will lead you to summer reading options

<http://www.middleburypubliclibrary.org/>

The website for the Middlebury Library

<http://www.southburylibrary.org/>

The website for the Southbury Library

<http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/children/Booklists>

CT State Library book lists

<http://www.teenink.com/>

Tons of suggestions by the teen crowd, for the teen crowd

<http://www.whatshouldireadnext.com/index.php>

A search tool to find books aligned with your interests

Books recommended by your teachers...

Ms. Kelly says: Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance

Ms. Kailan says: When the Moon is Low by Nadia Hashimi

Ms. Brooky says: The Yellow Birds, by Kevin Powers

Mr. Doniger says: Storyteller, by Leslie Marmon Silko

Find more recommended titles by PHS teachers [by clicking here](#) and at the summer reading table in the Library Media Center!

