

**Suggested Titles for
Incoming Grade 9 Students**

Orson Scott Card, Ender's Game

After Earth is twice attacked by aliens, the world government begins breeding military geniuses, one of whom is Ender Wiggin.

Charles Dickens, Great Expectations

When a mysterious benefactor gives Pip, an orphan boy, the means to rise in society, he becomes a gentleman and comes to learn that outward appearances can be deceiving.

S.E. Hinton, The Outsiders

An impassioned teenage author tells it like it is with the long-haired kids from the wrong side of the tracks.

Robert Lipsyte, The Brave

Having left the Indian reservation for the streets of New York, seventeen year-old boxer Sonny Bear tries to harness his inner rage by training with Alfred Brooks, who has left the sport to become a policeman.

Mike Lupica, Travel Team

After he is cut from his basketball travel team--the very same team that his father led to national prominence-- twelve year- old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

**Suggested Titles for
Incoming Grade 10 Students**

Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird

The wisdom of children is shown to be superior in this story of racial conflict.

Farley Mowat, Never Cry Wolf*

A Canadian conservationist relates a true story of life among Arctic wolves.

Eric Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front

"One of the greatest war novels of all time," it relates the experiences and sufferings of German soldiers during World War I.

John Steinbeck, Of Mice and Men

George and Lennie, two migrant farm workers, struggle to survive during the Depression and to achieve their dream of a farm of their own.

Richard Wright, Black Boy*

In this vivid autobiography, the author tells the story of his own search for physical and intellectual freedom.

* indicates non-fiction title

**Suggested Titles for
Incoming Grade 11 Students**

Mitch Albom, Tuesdays With Morrie*

The author draws lessons from his conversations during his last days with a friend and teacher who is dying from Lou Gehrig's disease.

Julius Lester, To Be a Slave*

This book relates the stories of former slaves told in their own words.

Tim O'Brien, The Things They Carried

This series of connected stories is based on the author's experiences in Vietnam.

Jodi Picoult, Nineteen Minutes

This contemporary novel focuses on bullying at a NH high school, on what it means to be different, on whether a victim has a right to strike back.

Richard Preston, The Hot Zone*

The author describes how the lethal Ebola virus makes its way from the rain forests of Africa to a Washington, D.C. lab and the measures taken to prevent an outbreak

**Suggested Titles for
Incoming Grade 12 Student**

Tom Brokaw, The Greatest Generation*

Tom Brokaw records the stories of individual men and women of the World War II generation.

Sara Gruen, Water for Elephants

From the perspective of an old man, this romantic novel recounts a young man's experiences with beast, woman, and man after he has joined a traveling circus.

Khaled Hosseini, The Kite Runner

The lives of two Afghani friends are changed forever by the treachery of one of the boys.

Jodi Picoult, My Sister's Keeper

Thirteen year old Anna has undergone medical procedures all her life to help her sister battle leukemia. When she decides not to give up a kidney, she's faced with a tragic moral dilemma.

Alice Sebold, The Lovely Bones

While adjusting to her life in Heaven, a fourteen year old girl watches the effects of her death on those she has left behind.

* indicates non-fiction title

Contact information and additional resources for assistance with summer reading:

The Somerville Public Library Central Branch Young Adult Librarian – 617-625-6600, ext. 2969 *Somerville High School English Office – 617-625-6600, ext. 6250

www.borders.com; www.barnesandnoble.com; www.amazon.com

ASSESSMENT/CREDIT

To receive up to four (4) additional points on their final grade for 1st Quarter in their English class, students will need to “report” on their summer reading book—after they return to school -- by means of alternative assessments such as those listed below:

- * writing a script
- * creating a commercial or an advertisement
- * making a comic strip
- * writing a book review
- * critiquing a main character
- * making a map or a time line
- * writing a biographical sketch
- * compiling a diary
- * creating a small newspaper
- * constructing a story map
- * writing a letter to a key character
- * explaining why you thought five passages were memorable
- * describing ideas you gained from reading the book
- * reimagining the book as a popular song
- * creating a portfolio of art work

To receive up to four (4) additional points on their final grade for 1st Quarter Grade, students enrolled in Honors English classes will need to report (a) on one of their summer reading books, through one of the assessments listed above and (b) on their second book, by writing a five paragraph in-class expository essay on topics such as:

- * explaining a significant change in a character and the events bringing about that change
- * explaining the outcome of a character’s confronting a conflict or a problem
- * explaining how a character was changed by a traumatic or frightening event
- * explaining why minor characters are important to the plot
- * describing the interaction between two important characters
- * describing the motivation of an evil character
- * explaining the development of a social issue in the book
- * explaining how the author supports the premise or main idea of his book
- * explaining how crucial events shaped a person’s life and his/her accomplishments
- * explaining how events in a particular period in history impact the lives of people
- * explaining what you have learned about particular animal — unusual facts, myths, the future of the animal.

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010



EXPECTATIONS

Students at Somerville High School should read at least one book over the summer. Students enrolled in Honors English classes are expected to read two books over the summer. Students enrolled in AP classes need to complete the reading and writing requirements for all the AP courses in which they are enrolled.

For suggestions of other titles, students may want to consult with Mr. Ron Castile, the Young Adult Librarian at the Somerville Public Library Central location, or any of the librarians at the reference desks of the Central, East or West branches. Students’ teachers and classmates are also valuable sources of suggestions for enjoyable summer reading books.