

The Bellport High School Library

2009 Summer Reading List

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Brookhaven, NY 11719

Linked to the NY
Statewide Summer
Reading Program

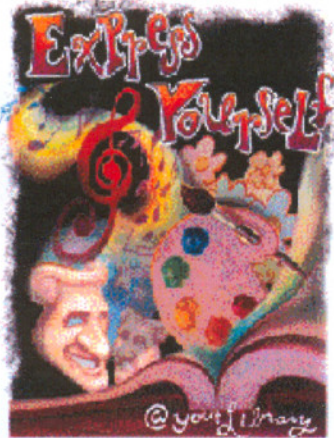
[http://
www.nysl.nysed.gov/
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READ



Fantasy and Sci-Fi

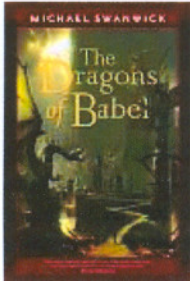
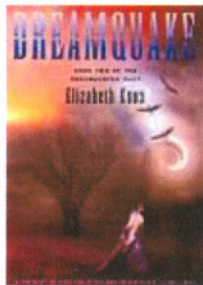
Dreamquake: Book Two of the Dreamhunter Duet, by Elizabeth Knox (PH) - While investigating the disappearance of her father, dreamhunter Laura learns more about "The Place."

Repossessed, by A.M. Jenkins (PH) - A fallen angel, tired of being unappreciated at his job, leaves Hell, enters the body of a 17-year-old and tries to experience the range of human feelings.

Ender's Game and Ender's Shadow, by Orson Scott Card (ME) - Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

The Dragons of Babel, by Michael Swanwick (AA) - Will finds himself the lieutenant of a war-dragon in Babel, a gritty steampunk post industrialized world and becomes a hero to the city's homeless.

The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins. (BBT) - Katniss accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young men and women are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.



Sports

Mexican Whiteboy, by Matt de la Pena. (BBT) - Danny has a talent for pitching a fastball but cannot fit in at school in San Diego, where his Mexican and white heritage causes people to judge him before he even speaks.

Beanball, by Gene Fehler. (SLJ) - Relates, from diverse points of view, events surrounding the critical injury of popular and talented high school athlete, Luke "Wizard" Wallace, when he is hit in the face by a fastball.

Major: A Black Athlete, a White Era, and the Fight to be the World's Fastest Human Being, by Todd Balf. (JJ) - Bio of Major Taylor, an African-American cyclist in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who aspired to be named the fastest man alive.

Far from Home: Latino Baseball Players in America, by Tim Wendel. (BB) - A photographic exploration of baseball and the Latin American world, describing the experiences of young men from the Caribbean who come to the U.S. with dreams of scoring major league careers.



Adventure and Thrills

The Memory of Running, by Ron McLarty. (SLJ) - After the deaths of his parents in a car accident and then his sister in L.A., Smithy Ide, overweight and friendless, embarks upon a trans-continental bicycle ride to claim his sister's body and rediscovers what it means to live.

Nation, by Terry Pratchett. (BBT) - A tsunami destroys everything leaving island boy Mau, aristocratic Daphne, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and lives.

Wake, by Lisa McMann. (QP) - Since 8, Janie has been uncontrollably drawn into other people's dreams; only after she befriends an elderly patient and becomes involved with a fellow-student she discovers her true power.

The White Darkness, by Geraldine McCaughrean (PA) - Taken to Antarctica on vacation, Symone discovers her uncle is dangerously obsessed with seeking an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth.

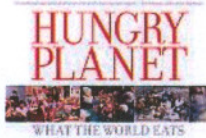


Non-Fiction

The Oxford Project, by Stephen G. Bloom (AA) - Presents black-and-white photographs of residents from the small Iowa community of Oxford, taken in 1984 and again two decades later, with accompanying first-person narratives.

It's Complicated: The American Teenager, by Robin Bowman. (BBT) - Photos accompany riveting interviews with teens conducted across the U.S. between 2001 and 2006 in which the subjects discuss their lives, fears and hopes.

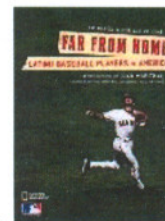
Hungry Planet: What the World Eats, by Peter Menzel & Faith D'Aluisio. (BB) - Presents around 200 color photos of 30 families from 24 countries and the foods they eat over one week, discusses their eating habits, shopping, farming, fishing or hunting practices, and cooking methods; contains family recipes.



Custom Kicks: Personalized Footwear, by Maki. (QP) - Discusses artistic footwear customization, with photographs of work by over 140 artists and illustrators and an examination of the origins of the trend.

One hundred young Americans, by Michael Franzini. (QP) - Photos and profiles of 100 teenagers across America, with insights into the youth culture in the U.S. and the reality of the lives of young people.

Peak Performance: Sports Nutrition, by Shryer, Donna. (SLJ) - An intro to sports nutrition, with info on how nutrients help the athlete reach peak performance, reviewing the food pyramid, and explaining how to read labels to make healthy food choices.



Mystery & Horror

Finding Nouf, by Zoë Ferraris (AA) - The family of Nouf calls upon desert guide Nayir ash-Sharqi to investigate her disappearance; when her body is discovered, he teams up with lab worker Katya Hijazi to find out what really happened.

Sharp Teeth, by Toby Barlow (AA) - Dogcatcher, Anthony, has no idea that his girlfriend is a werewolf who has abandoned her pack, but her efforts to keep her secret lead to murderous results.

Just After Sunset: Stories, by Stephen King (AA) - King tells the reader, "I hope at least one of [the stories] keeps you awake for awhile after the lights are out." Modern terrors, absurdly vulgar, gleefully macabre.

The Paranormal Caught on Film: Amazing Photographs of Ghosts, Poltergeists and Other Strange Phenomena, by Melvyn Willin. (QP)



History

City of Thieves, by David Benioff (AA) — During the siege of Leningrad, Lev is given the opportunity to be released from jail if he can secure eggs for the colonel's daughter's wedding cake.

The Good Thief, by Hannah Tinti (AA) - Ren, an orphan in 19th-century New England, is rescued from the orphanage by one who claims to be his brother; but Ren begins to question who he can and cannot trust.

Mudbound, by Hillary Jordan (AA) - The marriage between Henry and his city-bred wife Laura becomes more unstable when his brother returns from WW II to help work the family's farm; heroics in battle mean nothing in the Jim Crow south.

Bog Child, by Siobhan Dowd. (BBT) - Fergus is distracted from exams by his brother's hunger strike, the stress of being a Sinn Fein courier, and dreams of a murdered girl he discovers in a bog.

Ten Cents a Dance, by Christine Fletcher. (BBT) - In 1941 Chicago, Ruby, a Polish-American girl from the slums, leaves her meat-packing plant job to be a "taxi" dancer, paid a dime apiece to dance with men in a dance hall, and becomes entangled with the mob.

A Curse Dark As Gold, by Elizabeth C. Bunce. (MA) - Charlotte struggles to keep her family's mill running in the face of an overwhelming mortgage and what villagers believe is a curse, but when a man capable of spinning straw into gold appears on the scene, she must decide if his help is worth the price.

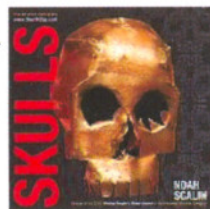
The Arts

Becoming Billie Holiday, by Carole Boston Weatherford. (BB) - Jazz vocalist Billie Holiday looks back on her early years in this fictional memoir written in verse.

What It Is, by Lynda Barry - A collection of collages and comic book techniques that explores the themes of memory and the writing process.

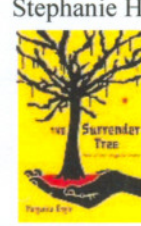
Three Girls and Their Brother: A Novel, by Theresa Rebeck. (AA) - In this witty satire, three young women find themselves easy prey for the sharks of show business when they are offered modeling careers, but an incident with a movie star causes them to reevaluate their lives.

Skulls, by Noah Scalin. (QP) - Photographs of 150 skulls made by Noah Scalin as part of a project during which he created one skull a day for an entire year and posted the project online, and includes instructions and patterns.



Literature

Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath, by Stephanie Hemphill (PH) - A series of poems that provide a chronological portrait of the life of Sylvia Plath, told in the voices of family members, friends, associates, and others who knew her.



The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom, by Margarita Engle. (BB) - Rosa, a healer, describes her experiences trying to help Cuban peasants forced to leave their farms and villages in 1896 and given 8 days to enter "re-concentration camps" or be killed.

The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West, by Sid Fleischman. (BB)—A narrative account of the youth of Twain, including period engravings, newspaper cartoons, and black & white photos.

Thoreau at Walden, by Henry David Thoreau, 1817-1862. (BB) - A graphic novel interpretation of Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," featuring the actual words from the text in which Thoreau describes his experiment in simple living.



I am Scout: The Biography of Harper Lee, by Charles J. Shields. (BB) - An exploration of the life and achievements of Harper Lee, discusses her Southern upbringing, personality, education, family, writing of "To Kill a Mockingbird," and association with Truman Capote.

Relationships

One Whole and Perfect Day, by Judith Clarke (PH) - As her irritating family prepares to celebrate her grandfather's 80th, Lily yearns for just one whole perfect day together.

Waiting for Normal, by Leslie Conner. (BBT) - Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and separation from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when they go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks in Schenectady, NY.

The Brothers Torres, by Coert Voorhees. (BBT) - Frankie finds the courage to ask his friend, Julianne, to Homecoming, sparking confrontation between a family who owns most of their small town, and his soccer-star older brother and gang friends.

Skim, by Mariko and Jillian Tamaki. (BBT) - Wiccan goth Kimberly sinks into a growing depression after her classmate's ex-boyfriend kills himself, sparking a school revolution that forces all the students to redefine themselves.

Baby, by Joseph Monninger. (BBT) - Baby's last chance at foster care is with the Potters; she likes them and enjoys their sled dogs but feels she should go back on the streets with her boyfriend if she cannot find the mother who has deserted her again.

Codes at the ends of titles in this brochure:

AA—The Alex Awards are given to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages 12—18.

BB & BBT—Best Books for Young Adults recommended for those ages 12-18, meet the criteria of both good quality literature and appealing reading for teens.

ME—Margaret A. Edwards Award honors significant and lasting contribution to writing for teens.

MA - William C. Morris YA Debut Award honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens.

QP—Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers.

PA & PH—The Michael L. Printz Award honors the 10 best book written for young adults each year.

SCL— School Library Journal