

*The
Bellport
High
School
Library
2010
Summer
Reading
List*



Linked to the NY
Statewide Summer
Reading Program
http://
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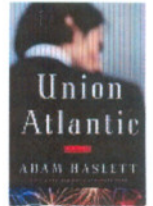
Adventure and Thrills

The Forgery of Venus by Michael Gruber –
Chaz Wilmot, a talented painter in the style of



the Old Masters, is offered a job restoring a Venetian palace ceiling fresco painted by Tiepolo in 1650; he realizes that the job is not so much a restoration as a forgery.

Union Atlantic by Adam Haslett — Haslett finished this novel before the full brunt of the economic crisis hit; some scenes sound as if they were written by a lurker listening to back office discussions that led to the real bank bailout. Memorable characters with dysfunctional lives seem to embody the frenetic craziness and moral confusion of the era.”



The Bride's Farewell by Meg Rosoff — Rather than marry without love, Pell absconds with her favorite horse and her brother, Bean, in search of a more fulfilling life. Both are quickly lost, and travel through the countryside is perilous but leads to self discovery, family and love.

The Great Wide Sea by M. H. Herlong — Ben's grieving widower father sells their house, buys a boat, and takes him and his brothers sailing off the Florida Keys. When Dad disappears they wonder if he fell overboard or committed suicide -- either way, the boys must band together to survive a fierce storm.

Non-Fiction

The Good Soldiers by David Finkel — Reveals gritty wartime reality, as you follow the troops of Battalion 2-16 during the January 2007 surge into Iraq and President Bush's order to increase the number of American troops in order to provide security to Baghdad and Al Anbar Province.

The Kids Are All Right: A Memoir by Diana and Liz Welch — Four Welch siblings write from four different points of view, chronicling the ups and downs of the four, who struggled to define the notion of home after a car accident kills their father and cancer takes their mother. Uplifting, not sappy.

My Abandonment by Peter Rock — Based on a true story, 13-year-old Caroline living with her veteran father in a cave in a Portland nature preserve, is confronted by the realities of her unconventional life when government officials notice her and relocate them to a farm where her father can work. “A haunting exploration of familial lore, survival, and hope.”



Stitches: A Memoir, by David Small — A graphic novel about the decidedly grim early life of award-winning illustrator David Small. He captures, in evocative detailed black-and-white washes, familial relationships, emotions, classic metaphors, imagery, teenage years, his cancer, and more “with grace, precision, and a flawless sense of graphic narration.”

Fantasy and Sci-Fi

Everything Matters! by Ron Currie, Jr.— Junior Thibodeau grows up knowing that the world will end by comet upon his 36th year, a prophecy revealed to him while still in the womb. Decisions about how to spend his years causes an existential crisis as his life unfolds.

The Magicians by Lev Grossman. — HS senior Quentin's real world never quite measures up to the enchanted land in his favorite fantasy novels, but fantasy and reality meld in surprising and tragic ways when he trades his boring Brooklyn life for the magical society of Brakebills College.

Demon's Lexicon by Sarah Rees Brennan—In this riveting fast-paced urban fantasy set in London, 16 year-old Nick and older brother Alan

have battled magicians and demons since his father's murder and their mother's theft of a powerful charm. Nick's suspicions lead him to uncover a devastating secret.

The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Catherine Jinks — Nina, “fanged” at 15, supports herself by writing sexy vampire novels, but in fact she and her fellow Australian vampires are an eccentric but believable ragtag bunch; witty, cunning, and humorous. Plot twists and murder-mystery turns abound.

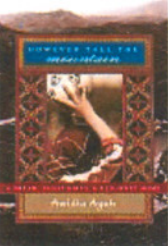
When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead — As her mother prepares to be a contestant on a 1980s television game show, a New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Sports

However Tall the Mountain : a dream, eight girls, and a journey home by Ayub, Awista —

Author established a soccer clinic for Afghan women to instill them with hope after the terrorist attacks on 9/11 -- it has grown allowing hundreds of Afghan girls to compete in the Afghanistan Football Federation.

Fading echoes : a true story of rivalry and brotherhood from the football field to the fields of honor by Sielski, Mike — Tells the story of captains of rival high school football teams in Pennsylvania, who enlisted in the military after graduation and were sent to fight in the Middle East and how their families and town were affected when only one survives.



Mystery & Horror

Soulless: An Alexia Tarabotti Novel, by Gail Carriger — This delightfully dangerous comedy of



manners follows the adventures of parasol and hairpin wielding Alexia Tarabotti. Soulless and 25, she works with a werewolf Lord to clear her name after she accidentally stakes a vampire and is suspected of the disappearances of other undead members of high society. Alternate history touched with steampunk.

Illustrado by Miguel Syjuco — A dead body floating in the Hudson River belongs to the late Filipino writer-provocateur, Crispin Salvador. And the search for the late author's much-rumored unfinished masterpiece, *The Bridges Ablaze*, inspires the protagonist on a dizzying literary treasure hunt.

History

Alligator Bayou by Donna Jo Napoli — Calogero and his Sicilian uncles and cousin live in small-town Louisiana in 1898, when Jim Crow laws rule and anti-immigration sentiment is strong, so despite his attempts to be polite and to follow American customs, disaster dogs his family at every turn.

Parrot and Olivier in America by Peter Carey — French aristocrat Olivier embarks on a tour of America in the early 19th century, accompanied by Parrot, a survivor of Australia's penal system who has been hired as both servant and secret spy by Olivier's mother, and while the two are polarized at first, they eventually become comrades in a democratic land.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose — At 15, Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl, refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks — explores her role in a crucial civil rights case.

Conspirata, A Novel Of Ancient Rome by Robert Harris — tells the story of Cicero's tumultuous year as the Roman chief executive. In an NPR interview, the author cheerfully compares it to President Obama's term.

Wolf Hall by Hillary Mantel — Henry VIII, anxious about dying with no male heir, is denied permission to annul his marriage and marry Anne Boleyn, but the power struggle between the Church and the Crown is mediated by astute politician Thomas Cromwell, who gets the king what he wants while keeping his eye on the prize of a free England.

The Arts

Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall by Kazuo Ishiguro — Five short stories by Japa-

The
IMPORTANCE
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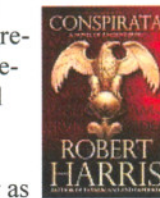


nese-born British author Kazuo Ishiguro that center on the theme of music, love, and the past.

The Importance of Music to Girls by Lavinia Greenlaw — A memoir in which Lavinia Greenlaw looks at how music informed different stages of her life growing up in Britain in the 1960s and 1970s.

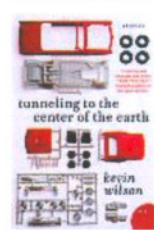
Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by Twentieth-Century American Art by Jan Greenberg.

Can a painting speak? This compilation of lyrical responses to famous American works of art provides answers from writers such as Nancy Willard, Jane Yolen, and X. J. Kennedy.



Short Stories

Tunneling to the Center of the Earth, by Kevin



Wilson — Wildly imaginative, this fine debut collection of stories from a Southern writer with a bent sense of humor is original but also warmly compassionate. "Wilson turns down the odd side streets of reality to explore rentable relatives, unscrupulous Scrabble workers, Mortal Kombat-fueled romancers, and the adventures of other wildly quirky characters."

Lips Touch: Three Times by Laini Taylor —

Taylor offers a powerful trio of tales which build in complexity and intensity. Kissy, in "Goblin Fruit," so yearns to be a normal, popular teenager that she forgets the rules of her Old Country upbringing and is seduced by a goblin in disguise. Set in British colonial India, "Spicy Little Curses Such as These" introduces Anami-que, silenced forever due to a spell cast upon her at birth. Esme, in "Hatchling," finds she has become host to a nonhuman-being in a world of sometimes malevolent immortals who steal and raise human babies as pets.

When You Are Engulfed in Flames by David Sedaris — More funny stuff in a collection of essays in which David Sedaris reflects on some of the more humorous and memorable events of his life. Just when you may tire of the introspection, he delivers a "cracking blow of insight that leaves you reeling."

Science

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope

by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer — The author details how as a teen he taught himself enough engineering and physics to build a windmill from scrap to provide his Malawian village with electricity and running water.

Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland by Sally Walker — Reports on the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort, in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s; and uncovers the lives of a teenage boy, a ship's captain, a colonial officer, an African slave girl, and others.

Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith by Deborah Heiligman — A biography of English naturalist Charles Darwin that provides an account of the personality behind evolutionary theory and the affect of his work on his personal life, such as his relationship with his religious wife.

Lists Used:

American Library Association Awards Lists; Michael L. Printz Award; Alex Awards; Best Books for Young Adults; Margaret A. Edwards Award; William C. Morris YA Debut Award; Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers; School Library Journal; New York Public Library; National Public Radio; Salon.com; Guysread.com; BookSpot.com...Please go the BHS Library webpage for links to more Summer Reading Lists...
http://www.southcountry.org/HIGHSCHOOL/BHS_Library/ideas_for_books_to_read.htm

