

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

Realistic Fiction

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes by Chris Crutcher

The daily class discussions about the nature of man, the existence of God, abortion, organized religion, suicide and other contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school senior's attempt to answer a friend's dramatic cry for help.

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

Deadline by Chris Crutcher

Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide known as "Hey-Soos."

The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks

Noah Calhoun, recently returned from World War II in 1946, buys an old plantation home in rural North Carolina, where he contented himself with memories of his first love, a girl he met fourteen years earlier, but then she unexpectedly arrives at his door.

Maniac Magee: a novel by Jerry Spinelli

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

Breaking Point by Alex Flinn

Fifteen-year-old Paul enters an exclusive private school and falls under the spell of a charismatic boy who may be using him.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

Vanishing by Bruce Brooks

Eleven-year-old Alice is unwilling to return to live with her alcoholic mother and her stern stepfather, so she refuses to eat to the point of slowly starving herself, in order to remain in the hospital.

Born Blue by Han Nolan

Janie was four years old when she nearly drowned due to her mother's neglect. Through an unhappy foster home experience, and years of feeling that she is unwanted, she keeps alive her dream of someday being a famous singer.

The Bermudez Triangle by Maureen Johnson

The friendship of three high school girls and their relationships with their friends and families are tested when two of them fall in love with each other.

Hard Ball by Will Weaver

A fourteen-year-old Minnesota farm boy has to figure out how to get along with the arch-rival in his love life and on the baseball diamond, and both boys must learn how to deal with the unfair expectations of their fathers.

Kissing Doorknobs by Terry Spencer Hesser

Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends.

Gossip Girl: a novel by Cecily von Ziegesar

Presents a world of jealousy and betrayal at an exclusive private school in Manhattan.

Cruise Control by Terry Trueman

A talented basketball player struggles to deal with the helplessness and anger that come with having a brother rendered completely dysfunctional by severe cerebral palsy and a father who deserted the family.

This Lullaby by Sarah Dessen

Raised by a mother who's had five husbands, eighteen-year-old Remy believes in short-term, no-commitment relationships until she meets Dexter, a rock band musician.

Crank by Ellen Hopkins

Kristina Georgia Snow's life is turned upside-down, when she visits her absentee father, gets turned on to the drug "crank", becomes addicted, and is led down a desperate path that threatens her mind, soul, and her life.

It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini

A humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital.

Lock and Key by Sarah Dessen

When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she too has something to offer others.

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

In 1949, four Chinese women--drawn together by the shadow of their past--begin meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong, invest in stocks and "say" stories. They call their gathering

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

the Joy Luck Club--and forge a relationship that binds them for more than three decades. Nearly 40years later, their daughters continue to meet as the Joy Luck Club.

Angel of Mercy by Lurlene McDaniel

Eighteen-year-old Heather travels as a volunteer to Africa, where she provides direly needed medical help in Kenya and Uganda and hopes to act as God's hands on Earth.

Pretty Little Devils by Nancy Holder

Life seems rosy for the Pretty Little Devils, the most popular girls' clique in high school, until its members begin to experience threats and assaults.

Killing Mr. Griffin by Lois Duncan

A teenager casually suggests playing a cruel trick on the English teacher, but did he intend it to end with murder?

The Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin

Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

Prep by Jake Coburn

A one-time tag artist, Nick tries to come to terms with the death of a friend, to protect the brother of his would-be girlfriend, to escape the violence of wealthy New York City prep-school hoods, and to figure out who he really is.

Burned by Ellen Hopkins

Seventeen-year-old Pattyn, the eldest daughter in a large Mormon family, is sent to her aunt's Nevada ranch for the summer, where she temporarily escapes her alcoholic, abusive father and finds love and acceptance, only to lose everything when she returns home.

Glass by Ellen Hopkins

In a powerful sequel to Crank, Kristina is determined to manage her addiction to crack in order to keep her newborn child, but when she is unable to manage her use of the drug and the pull becomes too strong, her greatest fears are quickly realized.

Impulse by Ellen Hopkins

Three teens meet at Reno, Nevada's Aspen Springs mental hospital after each has attempted suicide. [They] connect with each other in a way they never have with their parents or anyone else in their lives.

Crooked by Laura and Tom McNeal

Two ninth graders, Clara and Amos, suddenly find their lives turned upside down by their families, by each other, and by the two meanest brothers in town.

Coach Carter by Jasmine Jones

Inspired by the true-life story of high school basketball coach Ken Carter who benched the entire team for poor academic performance.

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

Interns: Fashionistas by Chloe Walsh

Fashion—it's an obsession for millions. But for four lucky, talented girls, fashion is a full-time, style-transforming . . . internship in New York City! Some might call it work, but as interns at high-end Couture magazine, Callie, Nadine, Ava, and Aynsley are workin' it in style.

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It is a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie's five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries of his meaningless life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: Why was I here? A moving and profound contemporary fable, The Five People You Meet in Heaven is an important reminder of the interconnectedness of us all.

Sports Fiction

The Perfect Shot by Elaine Marie Alphin

Brian uses basketball to block out memories of his girlfriend and her family who were murdered; however, the upcoming trial and a high school history assignment forces him to face the past.

Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl by John Feinstein

Fledgling fourteen-year-old sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie investigate suspicious activities at the Super Bowl after Stevie gets fired from his co-anchor job on a ground-breaking teen sports show.

Greatest Hockey Stories Ever Told: The Finest Writers on Ice by Bryant Urstadt, Ed.

Finally, hockey's rabid fans have an anthology of their own, a showcase of writing as dynamic and diverse as the fastest sport itself.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Football Genius by Tim Green

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Game by Walter Dean Myers

Drew Lawson, counting on basketball to get him into college and out of Harlem, struggles to keep his cool when the coach brings in two white players and puts them in positions that clearly threaten Drew's game.

Red Zone by Mike Lupica

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

Jack Molloy is taking a well-earned vacation after maneuvering his football team to a Super Bowl championship, but when his siblings call to tell him they've sold their half of the team to Jack's biggest rival, Jack is forced to cut his vacation short and find a way to save the team.

Running Loose by Chris Crutcher

Louie, a high school senior in a small Idaho town, learns about sportsmanship, love, and death as he matures into manhood.

Playing for Pizza by John Grisham

After losing an important game for his team, NFL backup quarterback Rick Dockery is fired, but his agent finds him an opportunity to play for the Panthers of Parma, and even though he has never been to Europe, he moves to Italy hoping for a second chance.

Night Hoops by Carl Deuker

While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

Black and White by Paul Volponi

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.

The Contender by Robert Lipsyte

A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym, where he learns that being a contender is hard and often discouraging work, but that you don't know anything until you try.

The Brave by Robert Lipsyte

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.

Heat by Mike Lupica

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Hoops by Walter Dean Myers

A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

Raiders Night by Robert Lipstye

Matt Rydeck, co-captain of his high school football team, endures a traumatic season as he witnesses the rape of a rookie player by teammates and grapples with his own use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Danger Zone by Robert Klass

When he joins a predominantly black "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome, Jimmy Doyle makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics.

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

Slam by Walter Dean Myers

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

Last Shot by John Feinstein

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

Home of the Braves by David Klass

Eighteen-year-old Joe, captain of the soccer team, is dismayed when a hotshot player shows up from Brazil and threatens to take over both the team and the girl whom Joe hopes to date.

Fantasy / Supernatural / Science Fiction

Prey by Michael Crichton

A cloud of nanoparticles programmed as a predator and capable of self-reproduction escapes from a Nevada laboratory and makes the human population its target.

Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell by Susanna Clarke

An utterly compelling heroic tale of nineteenth-century England and the two very different magicians who, as teacher and pupil and then as rivals, emerge to change its history.

A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libba Bray

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Rebel Angels by Libba Bray

Gemma and her friends from the Spence Academy return to the realms to defeat her foe, Circe, and to bind the magic that has been released.

Dragon's Keep by Janet Lee Carey

In 1145 A.D., as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, while hiding from her people the dragon's claw she was born with that reflects only one of her mother's dark secrets.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

The Book of Mordred by Vivian Vande Velde

As the peaceful King Arthur reigns, the five-year-old daughter of Lady Alayna, newly widowed of the village-wizard Toland, is abducted by knights who leave their barn burning and their only servant dead.

Tythe: A Modern Faerie Tale by Holly Black

Sixteen-year-old Kaye, who has been visited by faeries since childhood, discovers that she herself is a magical faerie creature with a special destiny.

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West: A Novel by George Maguire
Elphaba, born with emerald green skin, comes of age in the land of Oz, rooming with debutante Glinda at the university, and following a path in life that earns her the label of Wicked.

Beast by Donna Jo Napoli
Elaborates on the tale of "Beauty and the Beast," told from the point of view of the beast and set in Persia.

Golden Compass by Phillip Pullman
Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Double Helix by Nancy Werlin
Eighteen-year-old Eli discovers a shocking secret about his life and his family while working for a Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose specialty is genetic engineering.

Everlost by Neal Shusterman
When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.

Dread Locks by Neal Shusterman
Accustomed to a carefree existence, fourteen-year-old Parker Baer meets the girl next door and finds his life taking a menacing turn as he begins to absorb some of her terrible powers.

Blood and Chocolate by Annette Curtis Klause
Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.

Robots by Jack Dann and Gardner Dozois
Here, some of the most advanced carbon-based minds in science fiction offer their own unique perspectives on the complex and conflicted future relationships between mankind and his most brilliant creations--some funny, some sad, some bizarre, some terrifying, and all beyond anything ever imagined.

Twilight by Meg Cabot
Sixteen-year-old Carmel, California teenager Suze Simon is a typical high school student except for the fact that she is a "shifter" who can mediate between the living and the dead, and she is in love with a ghost from the nineteenth century.

A Matter of Profit by Hilari Bell
Sick of the horrors of conquering beings on other planets, Ahvrem will end his service as a soldier and save his sister from an unhappy marriage if he can discover who is behind a rumored plot to assassinate the Emperor.

Naughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman
Callum and Sephy played together as small children, and their love is forbidden. Now he is a second class citizen, a member of the naughts, and she is a cross, a part of the ruling elite, But when Sephy and her mother are nearly caught in a terrorist bombing and Callum's father is the prime suspect, more than their love is tested.

Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler

The Hermit Thrush Sings by Susan Butler

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

After a natural disaster has all but destroyed the earth, the orphaned and "defective" Leora, while searching for her sister, defies the oppressive laws of the land and joins a band of rebels trying to overthrow the government.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Ender's Shadow by Orson Scott Card

Bean must overcome his past and prove to the recruiters at the Battle School that he can help save the planet from an alien invasion.

Congo by Michael Crichton

Three adventurers trek into the Congo in search of the diamonds of the Lost City of Zinj.

Singing the Dogstar Blues by Alison Goodman

In a future Australia, the saucy eighteen-year-old daughter of a famous newscaster and a sperm donor teams up with a hermaphrodite from the planet Choria in a time travel adventure that may significantly change both of their lives.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

Bug Park by James P. Hogan,

When you're a teenager, even a teenager with a rich, indulgent parent, you don't have a lot of power. But when things get very small, the rules change. Physics changes. What everybody knows, ain't so; the weak are mighty, and the powerful can be brought down by those they thought they'd already trodden underfoot. And even those who think they own the world can learn the hard way that innocence is not another word for "stupid". Welcome to Bug Park. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved

The Xenocide Mission by Ben Jeapes

In a far-distant solar system, Lieutenant Joel Gilmore and his space observation team are suddenly attacked by the very aliens they were sent to watch.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Three extraterrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world.

Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

The Transall Saga by Gary Paulsen

While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported into a more primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

The Sterkarm Handshake by Susan Price

Having traveled to a sixteenth century border clan in England through a tunnel created by a twenty-first century company, Andrea must decide in which era she will live.

A Sterkarm Kiss by Susan Price

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

The Time Tube has opened again between the sixteenth and twenty-first centuries, and a wedding is arranged between the Sterkarms and the Grannams, catching Andrea up in the disastrous consequences.

The Copper Elephant by Adam Rapp

In a world where children under twelve are used as slave labor in subterranean lime mines, eleven-year-old Whensday Bluehouse struggles to survive the continuous poison rains and evade the ruthless Syndicate Soldiers.

The Clones by Gloria Skurzynski

Fifteen-year-old Corgan, having won the right to live on the Isles of Hiva for his role in winning the Virtual War along with teammates Sharla and Brig, soon finds himself raising the increasingly hostile clone of Brig, a young mutant genius, who died shortly after the war.

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

A Wizard of Earthsea by Usula LeGuin

A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere by Mike Carey

A graphic novel adaptation of Neil Gaiman's novel in which Richard Mayhew, a young businessman living in London, helps an injured girl and finds his life changed when he leaves reality and enters the city's underground world of sewers and abandoned subway stations--a world in which the girl he helped is someone of power and nobility.

The Sandman. Volume 1: Preludes & Nocturnes by Neil Gaiman

A collection of eight comics that introduce the series' lead character, the Sandman, Lord of Dreams.

The Sandman. Volume 2: The Doll's House by Neil Gaiman

The entire world is placed at risk when three dreams escaped from the Dreaming into the waking world meet up with Rose Walker, a young woman searching for her brother. Presented in graphic novel form.

Mystery / Suspense / Thriller / Horror

Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown

Investigating the murder of a Louvre curator, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon and French cryptologist Sophie Neveu find clues painted into a Da Vinci work, inadvertently uncovering a plot involving the Holy Grail and the secret society known as the Priory of Sion.

Angels and Demons by Dan Brown

As Vatican City is under threat of destruction, Harvard professor of religion Robert Langdon is called to investigate the Illuminati's sudden reappearance.

The Lost World by Michael Crichton

Jurassic Park the primordial zoo has been closed and the dinosaurs it once housed have been destroyed. Now, six years later, there are rumors that some of them may have survived.

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. On tape, Hannah explains that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out how he made the list.

Demon Thief by Darren Shan

With the opening of a window into a demon world, a boy discovers his powers as a Disciple and his mission to hunt the viciously powerful Demonata to the death.

The Taste of Night by R.L. Stine

Livvy Weller wants her twin sister, Destiny, to join her on the darker side as a vampire, but Destiny is determined to restore Livvy to her human condition and bring her back home to their family.

City of Bones by Cassandra Clare

Suddenly able to see demons and the Darkhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into this bizarre world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster.

The Tea Rose by Jennifer Donnelly

Fionna Finnegan has always dreamed of opening a shop with her longtime love, Joe Bristow, but when a dark and brutal man takes away everything she holds dear, her dreams are shattered and she is forced to flee London for New York, where she hopes to begin a new life.

Historical Fiction

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toymaker and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

The Falconer's Nest: A Story of Friars, Flirtation and Foul Play by Mary Hoffman

Silvano and Chiara, teens sent to live in a friary and a nunnery in Renaissance Italy, are drawn to one another and dream of a future together, but when murders are committed in the friary, they must discover who is behind the crimes before they can realize their love.

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol 1: the Pox Party by M.T. Anderson

Octavian Nothing is raised by a group of rational philosophers known only by numbers. He and his mother are the only people in their household assigned names. Young Octavian begins to question the purpose behind his guardians' fanatical studies, only after he dares to open a forbidden door does he learn the hideous nature of their experiments.

Al Capone Does my Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

Shakespeare's Scribe by Gary L. Blackwood

In plague-ridden 1602 England, a fifteen-year-old orphan boy, who has become an apprentice actor, goes on the road with Shakespeare's troupe, and finds out more about his parents along the way.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross

When her older brother is killed, Joan, a rebellious ninth-century woman, assumes his identity, enters a monastery and becomes a great Christian scholar, eventually attaining the throne of Pope.

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Fiction Classics

Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

In an effort to escape the hypocrisies of life at his boarding school, sixteen-year-old Holden Caulfield seeks refuge in New York City.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

The novel focuses on the reminiscences of Gene Forrester who returns to the boarding school he attended during the early years of World War II.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

The adventures of a mischievous young boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi River town in the nineteenth century.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

The astonishing novel Brave New World, originally published in 1932, presents Aldous Huxley's vision of the future -- of a world utterly transformed. Through the most efficient scientific and psychological engineering, people are genetically designed to be passive and therefore consistently useful to the ruling class.

Non-fiction

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer

Journalist Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for this epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

The Junction Boys: How Ten Days in Hell with Bear Bryant Forged a Championship Team by Jim Dent

Jamesville-DeWitt High School
Summer '09 Reading Suggestions – Students Entering 9th & 10th Grades

The legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant is recognized nationwide as one of the greatest coaches ever. So why did he always cite his 1-9 A&M team of 1954 as his favorite? This is the story of a remarkable team—and the beginning of the legend.

The Education of Koko by Francine Patterson

“This book is a fun non-fiction book of a gorilla that is taught to speak American Sign Language.”
~9th grade student

Alive: Sixteen Men, Seventy-two Days, and Insurmountable Odds: The Classic Adventure of Survival in the Andes by Piers Paul Read

Describes the ordeal of the survivors of an airplane crash in 1972 in the Andes wilderness in which over half of the forty-five passengers died, discussing the challenges the men faced during their ten weeks in the shelter of the plane's fuselage without supplies and with little hope of rescue.

Snakes! Fact-to-Face by Jane Hammerslough and Jeff Corwin

Did you know that there are over 2,000 different types of snakes? It's true, and Jeff Corwin is going to introduce you to a lot of them.

The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945 by Saul Friedlander and Steven Friedlander

Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction

Hawaii Goes to War: The Aftermath of Pearl Harbor by Wilbur D. Jones and Carroll Robbins Jones

9th Memoir of Carroll Robbins Jones childhood on Island of Oahu after December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Her remembrances are skillfully interwoven with professional photographs taken by her mother and a history of the U.S. fleet salvage operations.

Memoir

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah

Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States.

Short Stories

Half Human by Bruce Coville

A collection of fantasy stories about such creatures as mermaids and centaurs, who are part-human and part-animal, and their struggles to understand their true identities.

Suggested Authors:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laurie Halse Anderson• Libba Bray• Stephanie Meyer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walter Dean Myers• Chris Crutcher• Alexander McCall Smith |
|--|---|