



Suggested Summer Reading for Students Entering 12th Grade

FICTION

FIC ALA

Lost City Radio

By Daniel Alarcón

Norma, a radio host for an unnamed South American country ravaged by civil war, reads the names of missing persons to her listeners, and finds her life altered when a boy appears from the jungles with information on Norma's long missing husband.

SF BAR

Jennifer Government

By Maxx Barry

In a corporate-governed future world where people take the last names of the companies they work for, Hack Nike tries to get out of a contract that requires him to shoot teenagers and finds himself pursued by a government agent.

FIC BRO

People of the Book

By Geraldine Brooks

Offered a coveted job to analyze and conserve a priceless Sarajevo Haggadah, Australian rare-book expert Hanna Heath discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the volume's ancient binding that reveal its historically significant origins.

SF BRO

World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War

By Max Brooks

Max Brooks, son of actor Mel Brooks, chronicles the fictitious "zombie wars" that nearly decimated the human population, with first-hand accounts from people who have had a brush with the undead and facts and figures documenting how many undead currently roam the planet.

FIC CHE

Brothers

By Da Chen

Half brothers Tan and Shento grow up in different parts of China without knowing about the existence of the other, until their desires and love for the same woman bring them together.

FIC CLI

Finn

By Jon Clinch

A novel inspired by Mark Twain's classic tales explores the mysterious life and strange death of Huckleberry Finn's infamous father, describing Finn's fearsome father, the Judge; his brother, the sickly, sycophantic Will; and young Huck.

FIC COL

Acceptance

By Susan Coll

Acceptance is a satire of America's overachievers, a novel set over one year in the college application process, when students and parents surrender their evenings, their weekends, and their sanity to the race for admission.

FIC CRA

The Pesthouse

By Jim Crace

After being separated from each other while trying to escape a postapocalyptic United States by boarding a ship to Europe, Franklin, a man who was injured and left behind by his brother, and Margaret, a woman with a deadly infection, reunite and decide to try and live inland.

FIC DOI

The Whistling Season

By Ivan Doig

Hired as a housekeeper to work on the early 1900s Montana homestead of widower Oliver Milliron, the irreverent Rose and her brother, Morris, endeavor to educate the widower's sons while witnessing local efforts on a massive irrigation project.

FIC FAQ

The Cry of the Dove

By Fadia Faqir

Jordanian British author Faqir has written an exquisite novel describing the plight of Salma, a young Bedouin woman who has become pregnant before marriage and must flee her village to avoid being murdered by her brother, as the tribal code of honor killings demands.

FIC FOL

World Without End

By Ken Follett

In Kingsbridge during the year 1327, four children witness two men being killed in the forest; and years later, even though they have grown apart, they are connected by what they saw.

FIC FRA

Better than Running at Night

By Hillary Frank

Ellie, having endured a lonely high school existence, tries to make a place for herself as a freshman art student at the New England College of Art and Design.

FIC GAL

As Simple as Snow

By Gregory Galloway

After his eccentric girlfriend mysteriously disappears, a young man must unravel the puzzle she left behind in her cryptic, riddle-filled letters and in the obituaries she created for every living person in town.

FIC GIE

The Syringa Tree

By Pamela Gien

Young Elizabeth Grace, the privileged daughter of a part-Jewish doctor and his wife in South Africa in the 1960s, learns firsthand about the cruelties of apartheid when her beloved Xhosa nanny, Salamina, is forced to carry permission papers to enter white areas, and must hide her newborn baby from authorities.

SF GRO

Soon I Will Be Invincible

By Austin Grossman

Brilliant scientist Doctor Impossible, always plotting to take over the world, comes up with an evil plan to knock the planet off its orbit, setting the stage for a confrontation with Fatale, a rookie cyborg superhero and newest member of the Champions team.

FIC HAM

Color of the Sea

By John Hamamura

Sam's pain over losing the love of his life when her parents take her back to Japan is overshadowed when he is drafted by the U.S. Army and sent to Japan on a secret mission that forces Sam to choose between his loyalties to America and loyalties to his heritage.

SC LAH

Unaccustomed Earth

By Jhumpa Lahiri

The gulf that separates expatriate Bengali parents from their American-raised children and that separates the children from India remains Lahiri's subject for this set of eight stories.

FIC LUT

The Spellman Files

By Lisa Lutz

Isabel "Izzy" Spellman is a private detective whose story has a twist: the agency she works for is owned by her parents and is located in their home. Even kid sister Rae is a surveillance genius with a particular talent for picking locks and trailing people. Because of her family's quirks, Izzy tries to keep them apart from the new love of her life, Daniel Castillo, D.D.S. But the Spellmans' cheerful, idiosyncratic existence is shadowed by Rae's sudden disappearance.

FIC MAL

The Night Birds

By Thomas Maltman

For Asa the summer of 1876 was a time of fear and uncertainty, when his mysterious aunt, Hazel, arrives and turns his entire life upside-down with her tales and secrets from the past.

FIC MAT

In the Country of Men

By Hisham Matar

On a hot day in Tripoli in the summer of 1979, nine-year-old Suleiman spots his father, supposedly away on business, across from the market square and wearing dark glasses, the first portent of grave danger in a previously unsuspected world.

FIC MCG

Falling Boy

By Alison McGhee

Left paralyzed by a mysterious accident, sixteen-year-old Joseph is living with his father in Minneapolis and working in a bakery, while two new people in his life--seventeen-year-old Zap, a fellow bakery employee, and Enzo, a nine-year-old girl--set out to unravel the mystery of Joseph's life and past.

FIC MCL

Traveler

By Ron McLarty

Visiting his childhood home in Rhode Island after learning that his first girlfriend has passed away, part-time actor Jono Riley remembers his coming of age at the sides of three best friends, a period that was marked by a mysterious shooting.

FIC MIT

Black Swan Green

By David Mitchell

A meditative novel of a young boy on the cusp of adulthood follows a single year in the life of thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor as he grows up in what is for him the sleepiest village in Worcestershire, England, in 1982.

FIC NEM

Fire in the Blood

By Irene Nemirovsky

In a small French village in the years before the onset of World War II, Silvio, a middle-aged man enjoying his wine and his solitude, is drawn back into the life of his family and the village by the arrival of a cousin and the revelation of long-hidden secrets.

FIC NES

The Redbreast

By Jo Nesbo

Shifting effortlessly between the last days of WWII on the Eastern front and modern day Oslo, Norwegian Nesbo spins a complex tale of murder, revenge and betrayal. A recovering alcoholic recently reassigned to the Norwegian Security Service, Insp. Harry Hole begins tracking Sverre Olsen, a vicious neo-Nazi who escaped prosecution on a technicality.

FIC RUF

Bad Monkeys

By Matt Ruff

Jane Charlotte, arrested for murder, is referred to a psychiatrist who tries to figure out what is really going on after Jane explains that as a member of a secret group devoted to fighting evil, she is responsible for getting rid of irredeemable persons--otherwise known as "Bad Monkeys."

FIC TSU

The Street of a Thousand Blossoms

By Gail Tsukiyama

Raised by loving and traditionally minded grandparents, Japanese youths Hiroshi and Kenji are forced to put their dreams on hold in the wake of World War II and find their destinies intertwining with those of a famous sumo master's daughters.

FIC VAR

The Bad Girl

By Mario Vargas Llosa

Ricardo Somocurcio is haunted by his love affair with the mysterious Comrade Arlette, whom Ricardo is certain is the same woman he knew as Lily in his teenage years, and as the years pass, and her guise changes, Ricardo wonders why he is so drawn to this woman and what influence she has on his life.

NON-FICTION

B Beah

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.

B ELLSION

Ralph Ellison: A Biography

By Arnold Rampersad

Ralph Ellison is justly celebrated for his epochal novel *Invisible Man*, which won the National Book Award in 1953 and has become a classic of American literature. But Ellison's strange inability to finish a second novel, despite his dogged efforts and soaring prestige, made him a supremely enigmatic figure.

B GILMAN

Hypocrite in a Pouffy White Dress

By Susan Jane Gilman

Susan Gilman has often felt herself the odd woman out. This is sometimes a source of pride and sometimes consternation, but generally, at least in retrospect, it's a source of humor. In her memoir, she captures her experiences with colorful characters and describes the influences on her life.

B JAU

Intern: A Doctor's Initiation

By Sandeep Jauhar

Dr. Sandeep Jauhar recounts his brutal internship at a prominent teaching hospital in New York City, describing how he became disillusioned with the medical system, until he became a patient and was able to view the experience from the other side.

B POLLY

American Shaolin

By Matthew Polly

This is the story of the childhood dream that led Polly to study martial arts at China's famed Shaolin Temple, his initial disenchantment that turned into respect for the instructors, and the training that eventually led him to represent the Temple in international competitions.

342.73 HOL

Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution

By Woody Holton

Woody Holton upends what we think we know of the Constitution's origins by telling the history of the average Americans who challenged the framers of the Constitution and forced on them the revisions that produced the document we now venerate.

364.1 MEZ

Bringing Down the House: the Inside Story of Six MIT Students who Took Vegas for Millions

By Ben Mezrich

Describes how a group of overachieving, anarchist MIT students joined a decades-old underground blackjack club dedicated to counting cards and beating the system at major casinos around the world, managed to legally take several Las Vegas casinos for more than three million dollars.

796.35 SHA

Senior Year

By Dan Shaughnessy

Boston Globe" columnist Dan Shaughnessy chronicles his son Sam's senior year of high school and makes comparisons to his own school career, focusing on the baseball season during which Sam, a power hitter, attracted the attention of Division 1 college programs.