

Great Reads for the Students of Walt Whitman High School - Summer 2009

Welcome!

Our Goal: This list of books has been designed for your reading pleasure this summer. There is no obligation or formal assignment. All titles are available at the South Huntington Public Library. Feel free to discuss selections with the librarians who are ready to assist you! We wish you a great summer!

Classics

Austen, Jane ***Pride and Prejudice***

Intelligent Elizabeth Bennet must overcome her prejudice against the rich and overly proud Mr. Darcy before romance can blossom.

Brontë, Emily ***Wuthering Heights***

A story of love turning on itself, and the violence and misery that result from thwarted longing.

Dickens, Charles ***Great Expectations***

The orphan and the convict, the beautiful Estella, and her guardian, the ambitious lawyer, -- all have a part to play in the mystery.

Gaines, Ernest ***The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman***

A 110-year-old African-American woman reminisces about her life, which has stretched from the days of slavery to the militancy and civil rights movements of the 1960's.

Smith, Betty ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn***

The story of a young girl in turn-of-the-century Brooklyn who adores her charming but irresponsible father and resents her mother who tries to hold the family together.

Swift, Jonathon ***Gulliver's Travels***

The voyages of an Englishman carry him to a land of people six inches high, a land of giants, an island of sorcerers, and a land where horses are masters of human-like creatures.

Realistic Fiction

Brian, Kate ***Lucky T***

When superstitious Carrie Fitzgerald's mom donates her good luck t-shirt to charity, Carrie travels halfway around the world to get it back – but also learns about life.

Caletti, Deb ***Honey, Baby, Sweetheart***

This is a multigenerational story about teens and their parents who simultaneously deal with personal problems and ultimately find solutions.

Dokey, Cameron ***How Not to Spend Your Senior Year***

Jo O'Connor and her Dad are in a witness protection program. Jo is told to keep a low profile as a senior in her new high school. Regardless of the disguise, all kinds of public and exciting things happen to her.

Haddon, Mark. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***

Christopher has two mysteries to solve: who killed Wellington the Dog, and what happened to his mother. But Christopher, who is autistic, approaches these mysteries and the world itself in a unique and special way.

Johnson, Maureen ***13 Little Blue Envelopes***

Seventeen-year-old Ginny receives mysterious letters from her favorite aunt, and she leaves New Jersey to go to Europe on a scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

Myers, Walter Dean ***What They Found: Love on 145th Street***

Fifteen related stories about how a dying father tries to make his dream of opening a hair salon come true.

Picoult, Jodi ***My Sister's Keeper***

Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Kate begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.

Satrap, Marjane ***Persepolis***

This is a memoir of the author's experience growing up in Tehran during the overthrow of the Shah's regime and its replacement by the Islamic Revolution. The story is told in black-and-white comic strip images.

Sports Themes

Crutcher, Chris ***Ironman***

While training for a triathlon, seventeen-year-old Bo attends an anger management group at school which leads him to examine his relationship with his father.

Crutcher, Chris ***Whale Talk***

Intellectually and athletically gifted, T.J., 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.

Deuker, Carl ***High Heat***

When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private school begins to fall apart.

Fehler, Gene ***Beanball***

When Luke "Wizard" Wallace is hit in the face by a fastball, everyone looks back to figure out how it happened.

Jenkins, A.M. ***Out of Order***

Sophomore Colt Trammel loves baseball and his girlfriend Grace, but he hates the rest of high school and maintains a tough facade to hide his feelings of inferiority.

Klass, David ***Home of the Braves***

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 Joe hopes to date.

Lipsyte, Robert ***The Contender***

From high school drop out to champion boxer, a young man struggles toward an uncertain future.

Lynch, Chris ***Iceman***

Fourteen-year-old Eric, a ruthless hockey player prone to violence on the ice, tries to reconcile his own needs with those of his parents.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert ***Dairy Queen***

After watching her brothers play sports when she worked the family farm, D.J. decides to go out for the Red Bend football team.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert ***The Off Season***

This is a sequel to ***Dairy Queen***, but it can be read on its own. D.J. struggles to play on the football team and deal with the ridicule of classmates.

Myers, Walter Dean ***Slam***

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.

Myers, Walter Dean ***Game***

Drew Lawson is counting on baseball to get him into college and out of the projects of New York City. He must deal with privileged players who threaten his opportunity.

Smith, Roland ***Peak***

Peak is caught climbing a New York City skyscraper, and he then decides to climb Mt. Everest – at fourteen.

Wallace, Rich ***Shots on Goal***

While trying to help his soccer team win the league championship, fifteen-year-old Bones discovers he has a crush on his best friend’s girlfriend.

Fantasy

Adams, Richard ***Watership Down***

Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

Paolini, Christopher ***Eragon***

In Alagaësia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Pullman, Philip ***The Golden Compass***

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.

Tolkien, J.R.R. ***The Hobbit***

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure from which he may never return.

Mystery

Cormier, Robert ***The Rag and Bone Shop***

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

Donnelly, Jennifer ***A Northern Light***

In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest.

Giles, Gail ***What Happened to Cass McBride***

After his younger brother commits suicide, Kyle Kirby decides to exact revenge on the person he holds responsible.

Henry, April ***Shock Point***

Fifteen-year-old Cassie Streng is determined to expose her stepfather after learning that he is giving a dangerous experimental drug to his teenaged psychiatric patients, but he sends her to a boot camp for troubled teens in Mexico in order to keep her quiet.

Plum-Ucci, Carol ***The Body of Christopher Creed***

Christopher Creed was one of those kids that bugs everybody. When he disappears, people make jokes and accusations, but only Torey seems to care that Christopher is gone.

Price, Charlie ***Dead Connection***

A loner who communes with the dead in the town cemetery hears the voice of a murdered cheerleader and tries to convince the adults that he knows what happened to her.

Sykes, Shelley ***For Mike***

When Jeff's best friend Mike disappears in the fall of their senior year in high school, Jeff has disturbing dreams in which Mike urges him to come get him, and a secret begins to unfold.