

BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST 2014

SUMMER READING 2014 continues the new tradition of student choice. Books on the list are recommended by the BHS Library and the BHS English Department, with input from last year's student readers. Feel free to choose a book from any grade level or try a different book by any of the authors below, and don't forget the classics!

Visit BHS Library Website (bhslibrary.weebly.com) and click on the "Reading" tab, to check out our genre booklists.

NINTH GRADE

***Jumped* by Rita Williams-Garcia**

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are intertwined in the course of one day at an urban high school, after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved.

***Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky**

High school freshman Charlie's friendships, family relationships and experimentation with drugs and sexuality are all told through letters to someone of undisclosed name, age and gender.

***Grind* by Eric Walters**

Philip, obsessed with skateboarding, finds himself pushed to perform more and more dangerous stunts when he begins taping himself and posting the movies on a website to make money.

***First Part Last* by Angela Johnson**

Bobbie's carefree teenage life changes when he becomes a father and must care for his baby daughter.

***The Fault in our Stars* by John Green**

This book about teenagers who fall in love in a kids-with-cancer support group is funny, intelligent, poignant and unforgettable. Check BHS Library Catalog for our resource lists, including "If You Like John Green"!

***The Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness**

Todd and Viola are pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron as they set out across New World, searching for answers about their colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing settlers from Old World.

***Unwind* by Neal Shusterman**

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs—and, perhaps, save their own lives.

***Mexican White Boy* by Matt de la Pena**

Sixteen-year-old Danny searches for his identity amidst the confusion of being half-Mexican and half-white while spending a summer with his cousin and new friends on the baseball fields and back alleys of San Diego County, California.

***The Assist* by Neil Swidey (non-fiction)**

A true basketball story about two African-American players at state champion Charlestown High School.

***Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices* edited by Mitali Perkins (non-fiction)**

Shares stories about growing up in diverse homes or communities, from an Asian youth who gains temporary popularity by making up a false background, to a biracial girl whose father clears subway seats by calmly sitting between two prejudiced women.

***Never Fall Down* by Patricia McCormick**

When soldiers arrive in his hometown in Cambodia, Arn Chorn Pond is separated from his family and sent to a labor camp, where he works in the rice paddies until he volunteers to learn to play an instrument—a decision that both saves his life and lands him in battle.

***The Dodger* by Terry Pratchett**

In an alternative version of Victorian London, a seventeen-year-old Dodger, a cunning and cheeky street urchin, unexpectedly rises in life when he saves a mysterious girl, meets Charles Dickens, and unintentionally puts a stop to the murders of Sweeney Todd.

TENTH GRADE

***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang**

A graphic novel tells three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in popular culture.

***Beautiful Music for Ugly Children* by Kirsten Cronn-Mills**

Gabe struggles with romance, friendships, and parents--all while trying to come out as transgendered. His audition for a radio station in Minneapolis looks like his ticket to a better life but his future is threatened when several violent guys find out Gabe, the popular DJ, is also Elizabeth from school.

***Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell**

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

***Bad Boy* by Walter Dean Myers (non-fiction)**

This memoir by the popular author of *Monster* and *Fallen Angels* relates his experiences growing up in Harlem, the home of Sugar Ray Robinson and Langston Hughes, in the 1940s and 1950s.

***Everybody Sees the Ants* by A.S. King**

Overburdened by his parents' bickering and a bully's attacks, Lucky Linderman begins dreaming of being with his grandfather, who went missing during the Vietnam War, but during a visit to Arizona, he finds a new perspective.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

Through the eyes of young Trudi, we witness the growing impact of Nazism on ordinary folk of a German town as they are forced to make choices about prejudice and exclusion.

***Forest of Hands and Teeth* by Carrie Ryan**

Through twists and turns of fate, orphaned Mary seeks knowledge of life, love, and especially what lies beyond her walled village and the surrounding forest, where dwell the Unconsecrated, aggressive flesh-eating people who were once dead.

***Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow**

Set in the near future, Doctorow's novel blurs the lines between current and potential technologies in this Orwellian infused tale of a cyber-savvy teen caught in the aftermath of a terrorist attack.

***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz**

Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison. When he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents and his family.

***Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys**

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina and her family are taken from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Historical fiction based on the author's own family.

***Willow* by Tonya Cherie Hegamin**

In 1848, Willow, a fifteen-year-old educated slave girl faces an inconceivable choice--between bondage and freedom, family and love--as free born, seventeen-year-old Cato, a black man, takes it upon himself to sneak as many fugitive slaves to freedom as he can on the Mason-Dixon Line.

***Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss**

Kvothe spends his life fighting hidden and familiar foes while struggling to master his magical powers and battle ancient evils that threaten his world.

***The Circuit* by Francisco Jimenez (non-fiction)**

This memoir explores a migrant family's experiences moving through labor camps, facing poverty and impermanence, and discusses how they endure through faith, hope, and back-breaking work.

***War* by Sebastian Junger (non-fiction)**

A combat narrative based on journalist Junger's experience in Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008, during which he spent time with a platoon of the 173rd Airborne brigade in Korengal Valley.

***Reproducing Racism: How Everyday Choices Lock in White Advantage* by Daria Roithmayr (non-fiction)**

Discusses and analyzes how people think about race and what can be done to stop racism.

ELEVENTH GRADE

***Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok**

Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly begins a double life as a schoolgirl by day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by her first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty.

***Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett**

When Agnes Nutter predicts that the end of the world is days away, the demon Crowley and his angel friend, Aziraphale, team up to save humankind.

***The Road* by Cormac McCarthy**

This powerful post-apocalyptic story imagines a future in which father and son, sustained by love for each other, walk through a burned out America, destined for the coast, not knowing what lies ahead.

***True Grit* by Charles Portis**

14 year old Mattie Ross, accompanied by the one-eyed Rooster Cogburn -- the meanest available US Marshall, sets out to avenge her father's death and to pursue his killer into Indian Territory.

***Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman* by Jon Krakauer (non-fiction)**

Traces the controversial story of NFL player and soldier Pat Tillman, describing the military's efforts to hide the truth about his death by friendly fire, in an account that draws on Tillman's journals and letters as well as interviews with family members and fellow soldiers.

***Marcelo in the Real World* by Francisco X. Stork**

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

***Bringing Down the House* by Ben Mezrich (non-fiction)**

A group of math whizzes from MIT used the art of counting cards, worked as teams, and legally won as much as 4 million dollars during the few years they spent their weekends in the Vegas casinos.

***Townie* by Andre Dubus IV (non-fiction)**

This beautifully crafted memoir, by the author of *House of Sand and Fog*, describes his childhood in a depressed Massachusetts mill town, saturated with drugs and crime, and his weekly visits with his father, an eminent author who taught on a college campus.

***Friday Night Lights* by H.G. Bissinger**

Chronicles a football season in Odessa, Texas, exploring the role of high school sports in America, uniting and destroying communities.

***Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray**

When a plane crash strands thirteen teen beauty contestants on a mysterious island, they struggle to survive, to get along with one another, to combat the island's other diabolical occupants, and to learn their dance numbers in case they are rescued in time for the competition.

***American Son* by Brian Ascalon Roley**

A divorced mother from the Philippines looks on sadly as her teenage sons are swallowed up by the American dream, the lure of gangs, and the promise of the prosperous life. Told from one son's viewpoint, the vicious tug of wills between brothers rings true.

***The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara**

This fictional account of four days in July 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg discusses tactics and battle plans of the North and the South.

***Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward**

Enduring a hardscrabble existence as the children of alcoholic and absent parents, four siblings from a coastal Mississippi town prepare their meager stores for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina while struggling with such challenges as a teen pregnancy and a dying litter of prize puppies.

***Monkey Hunting* by Cristina Garcia**

Chen Pan, having signed a contract in 1857 that takes him from China to Cuba where he is enslaved on a sugar plantation, manages to escape his bonds, find love, and create a life for himself in a foreign land.

TWELFTH GRADE

***Moneyball* by Michael Lewis (non-fiction)**

This book is a quest for the secret of success in baseball and has found it in numbers. Billy Beane of the Oakland Athletics paid close attention to statistics rather than money and built a winning team.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (non-fiction)**

In 1951, a poor African American woman named Henrietta Lacks dies of cervical cancer, but pieces of the tumor that killed her--taken without her knowledge or consent--live on, first in one lab, then in giant factories churning out polio vaccines, then aboard rocket ships launched into space.

***Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

There's a dark secret at the Hailsham School, where the students live in ordered, idyllic isolation, ignorant of their planned future.

***Wild: From Lost and Found on the Pacific Coast Trail* by Cheryl Strayed (non-fiction)**

Traces the personal crisis the author endured after the death of her mother and a painful divorce, which prompted her ambition to undertake a dangerous 1,100-mile solo hike that both drove her to rock bottom and helped her to heal.

***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillebrand (non-fiction)**

The inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of catastrophes almost too incredible to be believed. Louie Zamperini was a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-WWII Army hero. During a routine search mission over the Pacific, Louie's plane crashed into the ocean.

***Radiance of Tomorrow* by Ishmael Beah**

In a parable about postwar life in Sierra Leone, two long-time friends return to their ruined home village and struggle to rebuild in the face of violence, scarcity, and a corrupt foreign mining company. By the author of *A Long Way Gone: Memoir of a Boy Soldier*.

***Packing for Mars* by Mary Roach (non-fiction)**

From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's new space capsule (cadaver filling in for astronaut), Roach takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth.

***The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid**

A Pakistani man is the victim of racial discrimination after the events of 9/11. The question for the reader is: Is the man really who people think he is, or is he innocent?

***American Rust* by Philipp Meyer**

This gripping thriller tells the story of the fallout of a murder on a group of connected characters and is set in an economically depressed region of Pennsylvania. Not for the faint of heart.

***Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese**

Twin brothers, Marion and Shiva Stone come of age in Ethiopia, where their love for the same woman drives them apart. Although their paths diverge, they both choose to dedicate their lives to medicine.

***Finding Higher Ground: Adaptation in the Age of Warming* by Amy Seidl (non-fiction)**

Argues that humans and animals can adapt and persist despite environmental changes brought about by global warming, and explains how climate change can be viewed as an opportunity to establish new cultural norms.

***David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits and the Art of Battling Giants* by Malcolm Gladwell (non-fiction)**

Uncovers the hidden rules that shape the balance between the weak and the mighty and the powerful and the dispossessed.

***Painted Girls* by Cathy Marie Buchanan**

In belle époque Paris, the Van Goethem sisters struggle for survival after the sudden death of their father, a situation that prompts young Marie's ballet training and her introduction to a genius painter.

***Americanah* by Chimamanda Adichie**

Separated by differing ambitions after falling in love in occupied Nigeria, beautiful Ifemelu experiences triumph and defeat in America, while Obinze endures an undocumented status in London until the pair is reunited in their homeland fifteen years later.