



**Brookline High School**  
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Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

This year, summer reading is based on students reading books of their own choosing and recommending them to one another. In their English classes, students have been sharing book ideas and coming up with a list of books they intend to read over the summer. The requirement is for each student to read, by September, a minimum of three books. Of course, if a student would like to read more, so much the better!

Students already in the Brookline system have submitted to their English teachers a list of three books they plan to read this summer. Students new to Brookline need only to create their own plan of three books, fiction or non-fiction. The Brookline High School Library, in collaboration with the BHS English Department, has compiled a list of recommended titles; this list is available at <http://brooklinesummerreading.weebly.com/>. Many of these and other appealing books are available both from the BHS Library and from the Brookline Public Library.

When they return in the fall, students will be asked to make a list of all the books they read over the summer. Although students are not expected to take notes as they read, they should be prepared to write and speak in some depth about one of the books they read and really liked.

People who read a lot tend to do better in school. We hope that choosing their own books will prompt students to read more and discover titles to recommend to others. Thank you in advance for your support of summer reading. Together we will cultivate the strong culture of literature and intellectual curiosity at Brookline High School.

Sincerely,

Lynne Cohen, BHS Librarian  
Eric Colburn, BHS English teacher  
Mary Burchenal, English Dept. Chair

**BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST  
2013**

The Summer Reading Program this year encourages student choice. The following books are recommended by the BHS Library and the BHS English Department, with input from the Brookline Public Library. There are thousands of other great books out there—try a different book by any of the authors below or ask your teachers, librarians, parents and friends for suggestions—and don't forget the classics! Feel free to choose a book from any grade level. Come see us in September and let us know what **you** recommend.

**NINTH GRADE**

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

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in 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**

We learn about high school freshman Charlie's friendships, family relationships and experimentation with drugs and sexuality through letters to someone of undisclosed name, age and gender.

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

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

***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.

***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.

***The Assist* by Neil Swidey**

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

***When My Name Was Keoko* by Linda Sue Park**

With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

***Incantation* by Alice Hoffman**

During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend the consequences are tragic.

***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. Based on recommendations by both students and teachers at BHS, this is destined to be a classic.

***Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein**

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in occupied France. A young woman who survives the crash tells a story of friendship, war, espionage and courage, as she relates what she must do to survive, while keeping secret all that she can..

## 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.

### ***Parrotfish* by Ellen Wittlinger**

Wittlinger untangles the complexities of gender identity and shows the person behind labels like "gender dysphoria" in this novel about transgendered high-school junior Angela McNair, who *knows* that she's a boy and finds the courage to change her hair, clothing and name and, in doing so, finds a comfortable identity.

### ***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.

### ***DopeSick* by Walter Dean Myers**

After a drug deal goes bad, Jeremy "Lil J" Dance flees into a house where he meets a strange man who reveals different turning points in Lil J's life when he could have made better choices.

### ***Please Ignore Vera Dietz* by A.S. King**

When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name.

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

Through the unblinking eyes of Trudi, we witness the growing impact of Nazism on ordinary folk of a German town as they are thrust onto a larger moral stage and are forced to make choices about prejudice and exclusion, secrets that will forever mark their lives.

### ***Divergent* by Veronica Roth**

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the

### ***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, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents and his family that he has never asked before.

### ***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. Mark Zuckerberg's favorite novel.

### ***The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman**

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

### ***War* by Sebastian Junger**

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 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne brigade in Korengal Valley.

## ELEVENTH GRADE

### ***Between a Rock and a Hard Place* by Aron Ralston**

In a personal account of strength in the face of adversity, Ralston presents the shocking story of the self-amputation of his right arm after it was caught between a boulder and a canyon wall during what began as a routine day hike in the Utah Canyons. Made into the film *127 Hours*.

### ***Where Things Come Back* by John Corey Whaley**

In the remarkable, bizarre, and heart-wrenching summer before Cullen Witter's senior year of high school, he is forced to examine everything he thinks he understands about his small and painfully dull Arkansas town. His cousin overdoses and his sensitive, gifted fifteen-year-old brother, Gabriel, suddenly and inexplicably disappears. This novel won the 2012 Printz Award for YA Fiction.

### ***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.

### ***Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer**

A harrowing tale of the perils of high-altitude climbing, a story of bad luck and bad judgement on the summit of Mt. Everest on May 10, 1996.

### ***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**

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. Basis of the movie "21".

### ***Townie* by Andre Dubus IV**

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.

## TWELFTH GRADE

### ***Story of a Girl* by Sara Zarr**

Three years after being discovered in the back seat of a car with an older boy, Deanna's life is crumbling around her and school has become a nightmare. Trying to escape with her brother, she finds the meaning of forgiveness.

### ***Moneyball* by Michael Lewis**

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**

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.

### ***Dreams from my Father* by Barack Obama**

President Obama tells the story of his life as the son of a black African father and a white American mother, and his personal search for a workable meaning to his life as an African American.

### ***Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann**

It's August of 1974, and Watergate and the Vietnam War make the world feel precarious: a man on a cable walks between the World Trade Center towers. This extraordinary real-life feat by French wirewalker Philippe Petit becomes the touchstone for stories that briefly submerge you in ten varied and intense lives.

### ***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillebrand**

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.

### ***What is the What?* by Dave Eggers**

Fictionalized memoir of real-life hero Valentino Achak Deng, a refugee from the Sudanese civil war--the bloodbath of the 1980's.

### ***Packing for Mars* by Mary Roach**

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.

### ***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 and successive generations in the foreign land.

### ***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**

Compelling literary fiction with the engine of a gripping thriller. The story of the fallout of a murder on a group of connected characters is set in an economically depressed region of Pennsylvania is 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.