

Suggested Summer Reading for
Students Entering 9th Grade
Saint Ann's School
2009

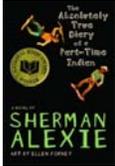


Fiction

Alexie, Sherman

The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian

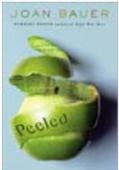
Arnold Spirit, also known as Junior, lives on a reservation in Wellpinit, Washington. He is dorky, smart, a target for bullies, and luckily has some skill in basketball. He also has a desire to do something different with his life—to get off the reservation. The only way he can see to accomplish this goal is to go to the white school in Reardan, a town 22 miles away. This is the story of his freshman year in high school—and what a year it was!



Bauer, Joan

Peeled

Hildy, a student reporter in a sleepy town in New York, investigates creepy local happenings and a murder, after a local newspaper tries to create a sense of hysteria. Will Hildy get to the bottom of the mystery?



Black, Holly

Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale

This complex story is hard to describe, so let's just say it is about a teenager named Kaye, who isn't actually human (she a faerie!) who moves back to the Jersey shore where she reconnects with old friends. She ends up getting caught in the middle of an otherworldly war between two faerie kingdoms!



Booth, Coe

Tyrell

Fifteen-year-old Tyrell lives in a shelter in the Bronx after his dad is sent to prison. He's got a lot on his mind—like keeping his younger brother in school, getting out of the roach-infested shelter, navigating between two girls, and resisting the money-making allure of drugs dealing.



Cameron, Peter

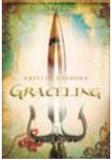
Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You

James is the consummate New Yorker—he is observant, his wit is acerbic and he is precocious. But deep down he is just a confused teenager. At 18, he has finished high school, he's working at his mother's gallery in SoHo for the summer and he's supposedly going to Brown in the fall. The only thing is, he doesn't want to go to Brown because he doesn't really like hanging out with people his own age, a situation that will undoubtedly occur day after day during his four years of college. An amazing book.



Cashore, Kristen

Graceling



Only certain people are born with a "grace." Those with graces, special skills in anything from swimming to fighting, can be identified by their different-colored eyes. Katsa was born with a killing grace and her uncle, King Randa, makes her use it to his political advantage. This becomes apparent when, in defiance of her uncle's rule, she accompanies Po, another graceling fighter from the kingdom of Leinid, on his arduous journey to rescue his young cousin. But things are not as they appear. Katsa determines her own destiny when she joins forces with Po, another graceling fighter.

Chbosky, Stephen

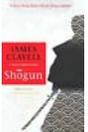
The Perks of Being a Wallflower



Charlie, a freshman in high school, writes letters to an unnamed person, chronicling his entire year. Charlie is smart but he is a "wallflower." This means he is more of an astute observer of life rather than a participant. He grows up a lot over the year—he makes a lot of friends, strengthens his relationships with his family, and in the process learns a few pivotal hidden things about his past.

Clavell, James

Shogun



Are you ready for this? An adventurous Englishman, a powerful Japanese warlord, and a beautiful woman come together in an exciting saga of medieval Japan. This epic classic should not be missed.

Collins, Suzanne

Hunger Games



This new book is all the rage for a good reason: the storyline is enthralling and brutal. Set in the near future, the protagonist, Katniss, must participate in the Hunger Games, a contest where only the winner survives. Will she make it out alive?

De La Pena, Matt

Mexican White Boy



Being half Mexican and half white in an all-white private school isn't easy for Danny Lopez. Life gets even more confusing when his father runs off to Mexico, leaving him to live with his extended family.

Doctorow, Cory

Little Brother



After a terrorist attack on San Francisco, 17-year-old computer-savvy Marcus (a.k.a "w1n5t0n,") and his crew find themselves in a whole heap of trouble. The Department of Homeland Security detains them and brutally interrogates them for days. When released, he discovers that the city has become a police state and one of his friends is missing. He and his allies must take action.

Felin, Sindy M.

Touching Snow



Thirteen-year-old Katu's home life is tough. Her family has recently emigrated from Haiti and her parents work exceptionally long hours while imposing very strict rules

for their children. The man Katu calls “Daddy” physically and emotionally abuses the kids, yet their mom looks the other way.

Ford, Jamie



Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

Chinese-American Henry and Japanese-American Keiko are the only Asians in their all-white prep school in Seattle. Their friendship deepens but the problem is that it's the 1940s and the United States is at war with Japan. Keiko and her family are forced to leave their home and move to an internment camp in Idaho. Henry vows to wait for Keiko. This is a bittersweet story of friendship, hope and reflection.

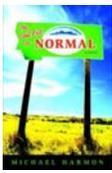
Green, John



Paper Towns

Only weeks from the very end of his senior year, Q (short for Quentin) gets swept into a mystery. His gorgeous, popular neighbor and classmate Margot Roth Spiegelman, on whom he's has a crush forever—disappears and leaves behind some intriguing clues that may or may not lead to her whereabouts. Hilarious, witty and fun!

Harmon, Michael



The Last Exit to Normal

Seventeen-year-old Ben is all about skate boarding and hanging out with his buddies. But when his Dad threatens to uproot the family and move to a miniscule town in Montana if he screws up again, he doesn't take him too seriously. Unfortunately, Ben lands in trouble and he, his Dad, and his dad's boyfriend, Edward, move to that *very* conservative small town, where it's unlikely that being gay or riding a skateboard are considered normal.

Hidier, Tanuja Desai



Born Confused

Dimple, a New Jersey teen, is caught between the disparate cultural worlds of India and America. Too American for India and too Indian for America, she struggles to figure it all out. Throw in a blond, blue-eyed best friend, dating, and a supposedly suitable Indian boy and you get a great story.

Kluger, Steven



My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park

Three Boston eleventh-graders narrate this enthralling comedy which involves political organizing, baseball, musical theater, love and friendship! Read it: you won't be disappointed.

McCaughrean, Geraldine

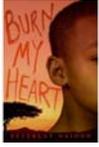


The White Darkness

Sym has a rich imaginary life where she actually talks regularly to Captain Lawrence Oates, nicknamed Titus, who was part of Robert Scott's failed expedition to the South Pole in 1911. Sym knows everything there is to know about Antarctica because she has been obsessed with the topic for years. When Uncle Victor offers to take her and her mum to Paris for a few days, Sym jumps at the chance. However, things are not

always as they appear and Sym finds herself in the middle of her own Antarctic expedition and her story, like that of Titus, is one of bravery and a fight for survival.

Naidoo, Beverley



Burn My Heart

Set in Kenya in the 1950's, during a period of British imperialism and revolution, this is a tale of a friendship between two boys, Matthew and Mugo. The fact that Mathew's parents are prosperous colonial farmers while Mugo's family are poor lower class natives causes friction. This powerful story is painful, raw and gripping.

Portman, Frank



King Dork

Hilarious. Tom, aka King Dork, is a witty, sarcastic high school sophomore with a great vocabulary. Tom and his one friend, Sam Hellerman, form a band. Half the fun of having a band is naming it, and Tom and Sam are constantly coming up with names like Baby Batter, Occult Blood, The Mordar Apes, Balls Deep, and The Chi-Mos, to name but a few. The novel revolves around the band, Tom's dismal existence in high school reading *Catcher in the Rye* for the hundredth time, solving the mystery of his dad's death, and lusting after various girls.

Potok, Chaim



My Name is Asher Lev

Asher Lev is an Orthodox Jewish boy who struggles to pursue a career in art despite his family's objections to the idea.

Stork, Francisco



Marcelo in the Real World

Seventeen-year-old Marcello has autism and has a hard time reading people's emotions and facial expressions. He has always gone to a special school where he has been understood and protected. In the summer before his senior year, his father insists that he work in the mailroom at his law firm so he can learn how to function in the "real world". Told from Marcello's perspective, the book gives you a glimpse into his intriguing mind.

Venkatraman, Padma



Climbing the Stairs

Fifteen-year-old Vidya is living with her family in Bombay during World War II. Times seem to be changing, yet most of her friends are still preparing for arranged marriages. Will Vidya have to do the same?

Whittlinger, Ellen



Parrotfish

This quick read starts out with a bang and keeps up the pace until the end! Grady, (formerly known as Angela) figures out that she isn't really a lesbian after all, she's actually a transsexual (a male in a female's body) and wants everyone (family, teachers, and fellow students) to call her by her new name. Will they accept him?



Williams-Garcia, Rita

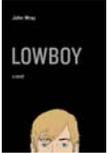
No Laughter Here

Akilah is ecstatic when her best friend, Victoria returns from a summer trip to visit her grandma in Nigeria. But when she returns, she’s not the same. It’s hard to imagine genital mutilation is relevant to youth in America.

Wray, John

Lowboy

Sixteen-year-old New Yorker John Heller, also known as “Lowboy,” suffers from schizophrenia. He stops taking his anti-psychotic medication and escapes from a mental hospital believing that the world is going to end within a few hours and he is the only person who can stop it. Lowboy takes off on a journey navigating the gritty subway and its tunnels while the authorities and his mother frantically search for him.



Graphic Novels



Barry, Lynda

What It Is

Gorgeous, full-colored collages, drawing and stories: this book is a gem! You can read it straight through or bit by bit. Challenge yourself by doing the writing and drawing exercises. This book is the kind you’ll want to refer to again and again over your lifetime.



Brown, Chester

Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip Biography

Riel was a charismatic, bilingual Canadian revolutionary in the 19th century who championed the half-French, half-Native, Métis community. His story includes battles, corruption, madness, exile, and racism. Riveting.



Katin, Miriam

We Are On Our Own

Katin was just a little girl during WWII. Fleeing prosecution by the Nazis, she and her Hungarian-Jewish mother abandoned their home and set off for the country with new identities. You won’t forget this powerful true story.



Nakazawa, Keiji

Barefoot Gen (series)

The series is loosely based on Nakazawa’s childhood before, during and after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. A brilliant, eye-opening, and simply unforgettable read.



Thompson, Craig

Blankets

This coming-of-age memoir is enchanting and funny. Growing up in a deeply religious and painfully strict family in the Midwest, Thompson had a difficult time feeling as if he belonged anywhere.





Tan, Shaun

The Arrival

The haunting, beautiful, and wordless story of a recent immigrant in a strange land.

Non-Fiction

Kuklin, Susan

No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row

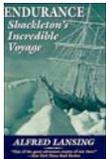
No doubt, this is a dark, serious, and sobering subject, yet it is an important one to ponder. In interviews with the author, prisoners discuss their crimes, their lives before prison, and legal issues.



Lansing, Alfred

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

A true adventure book! In 1914 Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men sailed for the South Atlantic on the Endurance with the goal of crossing the Antarctic. They didn't get very far — still half a continent away from their intended base, the ship was trapped and then crushed in ice. It took them 17 months, but they made it back. This is a gripping first-hand account of survival.



London, Jack

The People of the Abyss: The Underworld in the East End of Victorian London, 1902

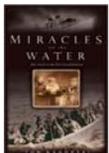
For research, London, author of *Call of The Wild* and other classics, lived among the poor and dejected in the squalid slums of London's East End, sleeping in workhouses and on the street. Take a walk in his shoes and get a glimpse of how others lived.



Nagorski, Tom

Miracles on the Water: The Heroic Survivors of a World War II U-Boat Attack

The chilling story of a British passenger liner attacked by a Nazi submarine during World War II. Aboard were ninety children being transported to what they believed would be safety from the war. Passengers rushed to lifeboats in the icy sea, but rescuers were nowhere to be seen. The author's great uncle was among the survivors, and the gripping book is based largely on eyewitness accounts.

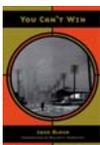


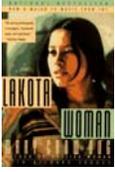
Memoir

Black, Jack

You Can't Win

Black was a boxcar-riding thief. Journey with him through the old West of early 20th century America. Learn about the life and lingo in the underworld and also about the code of honor. This book was a favorite of William S. Burroughs—the famous Beat writer—when he was young.

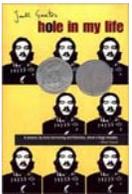




Dog, Mary Crow

Lakota Woman

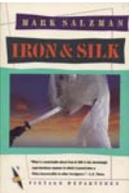
Mary Crow Dog's moving account of growing up Indian in America is unforgettable. Her tumultuous childhood was marked by extreme poverty and a forced stint at a boarding school run by racist nuns whose goal was to strip Indian children of their culture. Follow along as her life takes a political turn with her marriage to activist and spiritual leader Leonard Crow Dog, and her involvement in the famed stand-off at Wounded Knee—where she gave birth to a son!



Gantos, Jack

Hole in My Life

Gantos—the author of *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* and other kids' books—chronicles the years in high school and after graduation when his life descended into disaster, ultimately landing him in federal prison for drug smuggling. His writing is clear and compelling, and his descriptions of prison life are chilling. It is fascinating to read about his dream of becoming a writer and the books he read in prison while trying to achieve that goal.



Salzman, Mark

Iron and Silk

In the 1980's, fresh out of college, Salzman went to China to teach English. He was also a student of martial arts and continued to study while in China. Salzman writes about his experiences with humor and insight, every chapter giving us a deeper understanding of Chinese culture and character.



Sedaris, David

Me Talk Pretty One Day

An unusual collection of wry, hilarious, award-winning essays ranging from Sedaris' childhood in North Carolina to his stint in Paris where he tried to learn how not to mangle the French language.



Walls, Jeannette

Glass Castle

In this beautifully-written memoir, Walls tells the story of her unusual childhood without a trace of bitterness. Dysfunctional and intelligent, her parents encouraged their four children to, "fly under the radar" to avoid attracting attention to their unusual lifestyle. Virtual nomads, they often did the "skedaddle" rather than pay rent or deal with authority. They frequently lived in squalor and extreme poverty. This novel is heart-wrenching, thought-provoking and a real page-turner.



Wolff, Tobias

This Boy's Life

Wolff's story of when he was a lonely, irreverent, scheming and wholly diverting kid who knew opportunity when he saw it and never passed it up.



Bored? Make something!

Haden, Christen

Creepy Cute Crochet: Zombies, Ninjas, Robots, and More!

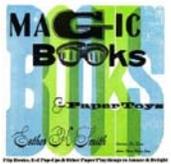
Use these awesome patterns to crochet darling and spooky creatures. They'd make great birthday presents.



Roth, Ed

Stencil 101: Make Your Mark with 25 Reusable Stencils and Step-by-Step Instructions

Feeling ambitious? Use these hip and arty stencils to create T-shirts, decorate walls in your room, or personalize your furniture.



Smith, Esther K.

Magic Books & Paper Toys: Flip Books, E-Z Pop-Ups & Other Paper Playthings to Amaze & Delight

Learn to make unique, arty pop-ups, flip books and accordions out of paper.



Smith, Keri

Wreck This Journal

Part art, part writing exercises, this book has prompts to inspire you to write and encourages you to create and destroy. Smith wants to cure you from a common ailment: blank-page anxiety!



Tack, Karen & Alan Richardson

Hello, Cupcake!: Irresistibly Playful Creations Anyone Can Make

Impress family and friends with these amazing culinary creations. Want to make an alien cupcake or a penguin cupcake? This book will show you how.



Todd, Mark and Esther Watson

Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine?

"Zines (pronounced "zeens") are cut-and-paste, self-published magazines reproduced on photocopy machines or on the sly at work and distributed through the mail, friends and word of mouth. They often cover hot topics such as music, politics, television, movies, work, food, whatever." Use this book to inspire you to get off your rump, make your own zine and distribute it to your friends!



Don't Miss these Classics!

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

Black Boy by Richard Wright

Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert

Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers
Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
Miss Lonely Hearts by Nathanael West
My Antonia by Willa Cather
Not Without Laughter by Langston Hughes
Out of Africa by Isak Dinesen
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers
The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett
The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco
The Stranger by Albert Camus
The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
Woman in White by Wilkie Collins
Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

Happy reading!

—Maria, Ragan, Denise & Eva—

You can check out this list and past summer reading lists at

<http://www.saintannsny.org/depart/library/publib.html>

