June 9, 2010

Dear Students,

The summer is a wonderful time to relax and recoup; it is also an opportunity to avail yourself of the many books you didn’t have time to enjoy throughout the school year. Attached please find a comprehensive reading list with titles and short descriptions from The American Library Association, The College Board, our faculty and many other sources. This list has been created with suggested grade levels but please feel free to read whichever titles pique your interest.

This list is available on the district website along with suggested titles from the Huntington High School student body. So do not delay; select a book, read by yourself, read with a friend, read as a family and enjoy the many engaging, exciting books available.

Sincerely,

The English Department

BG/ed
Encl.
cc. J Leavy
    C.Leonardi
    J. Finello
It’s Summer – let’s read!

2010 Summer Reading List for Huntington High School

Relax and enjoy the summer with a good book at your side. Read for entertainment, read for information, just read, read, read! The following list includes titles culled from the American Library Association top 100 books, the Alex Awards, recommendations by the College Board and suggestions from the faculty.

Ninth Grade

Adams: The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy c1980 humor, science fiction
After narrowly escaping Earth’s destruction, Arthur Dent travels the galaxy with the help of tour guide Ford Prefect, on a quest to save the universe.

Alvarez: Before We Were Free Anita de la Torre is like most 12-year-old girls. She’s inquisitive, talkative, and irritates her older sister daily. A native of the Dominican Republic, she attends an American school and quickly learns that the greatest difference between the two countries is freedom. In BEFORE WE WERE FREE novelist Julia Alvarez introduces young readers to the Torres, a close-knit family that grapples with their political ideals in a country where secret police “disappear people” who disagree with El Jefe. And the Torres disagree.

Anderson: Chains The heroine of Chains is thirteen-year old Isabel and her story begins in Rhode Island on the day of the funeral of her owner, Miss Mary Finch, who had strange notions. She taught her slaves to read and write and she amended her will to include the freedom of her slaves upon her death.

In 1777, 15-year-old Creighton is kidnapped from England and taken to the American colonies, where he becomes involved in the political unrest that can change the course of history.
Covey: *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* c1998 *nonfiction*
Hints and strategies for success in life, communicated through engaging stories, cartoons and quotations.

Follow the story of Lynne Cox as she deals with achieving her dreams of conquering some of the roughest waters in the world. The story shows that young people can accomplish great things.

Cutcher: *Whale Talk*
Picture your high school's outcasts. You know, those students who, sadly, most of your classmates think of as the fat kid, the dumb kid, the quiet kid, the loser, the loner. The kids no one talks to and no one really knows. Now imagine if you heard that this motley crew was about to become your high school's new varsity swim team. The same kids who are picked last for every team in gym, who have never been seen near the weight room or the track, who are the last people you would imagine wearing your high school letter jackets, will be making an appearance at the next pep rally.

Dessen: *The Truth about Forever* c2004 *grief, fiction*
The summer after her father dies holds unexpected changes that help Marcy face her grief.

Draper: *Tears of a Tiger*
"Andy Jackson and three other friends had just won an important basketball game. They decided to get together and go celebrate their victory. They had started drinking, all except for B.J. who had never drunk in his life. They heard honking, but just laughed because of the alcohol. All of a sudden, a wall is in front of them and before they know it, they hit it. Three of the guys get out, but Robert Washington, Andy's best friend and captain of the Hazlewood Basketball Team is pinned inside of the car."
**Farmer: The House of the Scorpion** c2002 science fiction
In the future, clones are looked down upon by humans. However, Matt, a clone of a powerful leader, experiences special privileges.

**Grimes: Dark Sons** c2005 African American fiction
This starkly written novel is a story of two young men, separated by history, who struggle with identity, race and faith. Both young men struggle with societal acceptance and a place to belong.

**Halberstam: Firehouse** c2002 nonfiction, biography
Out of all the men who responded to the terrorists' attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, from the Engine 40 Ladder 35 firehouse, only one man survived.

**Henkes: Olives Ocean**
After Olive's death, her mother brings Martha a note from Olive's journal in which Olive has expressed her dreams: becoming a writer, seeing the ocean, and getting to know Martha. Olive says in her note that she wants to write a novel that is neither an adventure nor a mystery but an emotional book. That's exactly what Kevin Henkes has written. The note acts as a catalyst for much of what Martha will learn and deal with in the one summer of this story: her first confrontation with romance, betrayal, and death.

**Johnson: The First Part Last** c2003 teenage, African American fiction
The birth of Bobby’s baby girl brings life changes to his carefree teenage life.

**Krakauer: Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster** c1998 nonfiction/survival
In March 1996, a group of people joined an expedition to climb Mount Everest. This group included journalist Jon Krakauer and lead climber Rob Hall. Despite the expertise of the climbers, the expedition met with disaster. Krakauer analyzes why.

**Lord: A Night to Remember** c1955 nonfiction, history
The story of the sinking of the Titanic is told in a "you were there" approach.
McKinley: *Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast* c1978 romance, folklore fiction
While the beautiful heroine is being held captive in the castle of the frightening beast, her love for the beast releases him from the spell that transformed him.

Murdock: *Dairy Queen* c2006 farm life, fiction
With humor, sports action, romance and wit, this book could appeal to both male and female. The interesting and empathetic characters in non-conventional roles provide “food for thought” and provide insight into situations not usually covered in young adult fiction.

Murray: *Bottled Up* c2003 drug abuse, realistic fiction
Pip must face his high school principal, his drug addiction, his alcoholic father and a younger brother who looks up to him.

Nolan: *Dancing on the Edge* c2007 fiction
Miracle McCloy feels like a misfit in a dysfunctional family. Her mother died when she was born and her distant, brooding father disappears suddenly. Raised by her psychic grandmother, Gigi, Miracle searches for her identity and dancing becomes the only thing that makes Miracle feel like a whole person. After being committed to the psychiatric ward of a hospital, Miracle must face the truth about her past.

Nye: *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East* c2002 Poetry of the Middle East.

Oates: *Freaky Green Eyes* c2003 realistic fiction
Fourteen-year-old Frankie relates the events leading up to her mother’s disappearance and her own attempt to come to terms with her parents’ relationship.

Peck: *The Teacher’s Funeral* c2004 teenage guys’ fiction
In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell’s dream of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew is disrupted when his older sister takes over teaching at his one room schoolhouse after mean, old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."
Schaap: *Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler's Olympics* c2007
nonfiction, sports biography
This book uncovers the history of one of sports greatest track and field stars, Jesse Owens. It traces the racial struggles he faced in America and the dramatic contests in 1936 at the Olympics in Nazi Berlin.

Tolkien: *Lord of the Rings Trilogy* c1954 fantasy, classic
This trilogy includes *The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*. It is the story of how the dark power of Sauron is destroyed.

Uchida: *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese-American Family* c1982
nonfiction, survival
After the attack on Pearl Harbor, like many other Japanese-American families, Yoshiko’s family is assigned to an internment camp in Utah.

Woodson: *Behind You* c2004 African American fiction
After fifteen-year-old Jeremiah is mistakenly shot by the police, his loved ones struggle to cope with his loss, unaware that he is watching over them.

Zusak: *The Book Thief*
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.
Tenth Grade

Alexie: *Flight* c2007 *Native American fiction* A teenager in a new foster home wrestles with the anger and injustice of his own situation and contemplates violence before taking a jolting time travel journey to examine the conquest of Native Americans and the consequences of hatred from various viewpoints.

Alvarez: *In the Time of the Butterflies* c1994 *diversity, historical fiction, war* A fictionalized account of four Mirabel sisters who helped form a resistance movement in the Dominican Republic against the dictatorship of General Trujillo.

Anderson: *Feed* c2002 *science fiction, war* People in this futuristic society constantly receive information and commercials from computers implanted in their brains at birth. The story criticizes our consumer-driven society.

Bissinger: *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team and a Dream* c2000 *nonfiction, sports* The story of a high school football team in Texas and their struggle to win the championship in 1988.

Bray: *A Great and Terrible Beauty* c2004 *historical fantasy* Gothic with a touch of the occult and light horror, Bray creates an adolescent heroine with present day sensibilities. The novel also provides a strong depiction of the role of women in Victorian times.

Buck: *The Good Earth* The novel begins on the day of Wang Lung's marriage. The woman he will be getting as his wife has been a slave since being a young girl at the great House of Hwang. Wang Lung, a humble, poor peasant farmer, goes to the great house to get his woman. O-lan is plain looking, dull, and slow, but she is hard working, thrifty, and resourceful. One day, she tells Wang Lung that she is with child, and later gives birth to a boy by herself.
**Borland: When the Legends Die** The story follows a young Native American boy as he struggles not only with the rite of passage to manhood but also with the harsh realities of the clash of his native culture and the modern white society. Having been raised in the traditional ways of his Ute ancestors, the protagonist of the story must first learn the “new ways” of the white people who dominate his world before he can create a clear identity of who he is and where he fits in his environment.

**Bradbury: Farenheit 451** The short novel presents a future American society in which the masses are hedonistic and critical thought through reading is outlawed. The central character, Guy Montag, is employed as a "fireman" (which, in this future, means "bookburner"). The number "451" refers to the temperature at which book paper combusts.

**Cary: Bloodline: A Novel** c2005 vampire, historical fiction A British soldier in World War I finds out that his regiment commander is a descendant of Count Dracula.

**Collins (Editor): Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry** c2003 poetry An anthology of poems selected and introduced by Billy Collins, America’s Poet Laureate.

**Dillard: Pilgrim at Tinker Creek** c1974 nonfiction, science, nature This Pulitzer Prize winning book is a series of interconnected essays that force one to contemplate the natural world beyond its commonplace surfaces.

**Ehrenreich: Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in Boom-Time America** c2001 nonfiction, social issues Recount the experiences of a reporter who tried to support herself in three different areas of the United States, working at three different minimum-wage jobs.
Grogan: *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World’s Worst Dog* c2005 nonfiction, humor Grogan recounts his misadventures with Marley, a clumsy, mischievous, mentally unstable 97 lb. yellow lab.

Haddon: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* c2003 autism, mystery Christopher, a mathematically-gifted but socially challenged autistic teen, uncovers secrets about his own family while investigating the murder of a neighbor’s dog.

Halberstam: *October 1964* c1994 nonfiction, sports The story of how the hardscrabble St. Louis Cardinals toppled the seemingly invincible New York Yankees in the 1964 World Series.

Jeter: *The Life You Imagine: Life Lessons for Achieving Your Dreams* c2000 nonfiction, sports An account of the inspirational life of baseball player Derek Jeter.

Kooser: *Delights and Shadows* c2004 poetry Presents a collection of poems by Poet Laureate, Ted Kooser, that describe the habits and struggles of daily life.

Larsen: *All the Numbers* c2006 psychological fiction A summer lake vacation turns into a tragedy for Ellen Banks who loses her son James as the result of a Jet Ski accident. Ellen is determined to see that the reckless skier is punished, while trying to hold her life together as well as help her younger son cope with the tragedy. Judy Merrill Larsen is a local author.

Meyer: *Twilight* c2005 vampire fiction Bella moves from sunny, dry Arizona to wet, dreary Forks, Washington to live with her dad. Not only does Bella live in a totally different place, she meets a handsome guy who is also totally different.

McCullors: *A Member of the Wedding*
Naidoo: *Out of Bounds: Seven Stories of Conflict and Hope* c2001 *South African fiction* Set in the South Africa of the Apartheid period, the stories tell of the experiences of young people from different races as they cope with the society’s many restrictions.

Satrapi: *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* c2003 *nonfiction, biography, graphic novel* Graphic novel depicting how the author lived in Tehran, Iran until the country came under the control of the Islamic regime.

Spiegelman: *Maus: A Survivor's Tale I and II* *historical fiction, graphic novel* A memoir about Vladek. Zeises: *Bringing Up the Bones*

Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Auschwitz and about his son, a cartoonist, who tries to come to terms with his father, his story and history itself. The cartoon format portrays Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

Tsukiyama: *Dreaming Water* *psychological fiction* Set in contemporary California, this is the story of a mother’s courage, a daughter’s strength and a friend’s love dealing with Werner’s syndrome, a disease that causes premature aging.

Volponi: *Black and White* c2005 *interracial friendship, fiction* Two friends experience the justice system differently after committing a crime and getting caught.

Wiseman: *My Canary Yellow Star* The Second World War was a time of terrible injustices. It was also a time of incredible bravery.

Eleventh Grade

Berthon: *Warlords: An Extraordinary Re-creation of World War II Through the Eyes and Minds of Hitler, Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin* c2006 *nonfiction, war* By using the words of the "warlords" and the words of their contemporaries, this book provides parallel accounts of how these powerful men tried to outthink and outfight each other in World War II.
Blumenthal: *Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX, The Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America* c2005 *nonfiction, women athletes* The gripping history about women’s struggle for equality in sports from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Bronte: *Jane Eyre* classic An orphaned young woman in nineteenth century England, takes employment as a governess at a country estate. She falls in love with her employer, who has a secret.

Brooks: *True Confessions of a Heartless Girl* c2003 *realistic fiction* A confused seventeen-year-old girl, a single mother and her young son, two elderly women and a lonely man come together to form a community in a small Manitoba town.

Callahan: *The Cheating Culture* c2004 *nonfiction, social issues* Callahan reports on cheating in sports, education and business, exposing how people will do anything (legal or illegal) to get ahead.

Chevalier: *Girl with a Pearl Earring* c1999 *historical fiction* The possible story behind the relationship between seventeenth century Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer and the girl in his famous painting, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*.

Danticat: *The Farming of Bones: A Novel* c1998 *Haitian-American fiction* The story of a young woman who tries to weather the "ethnic cleansing" that took place in 1937 in the Dominican Republic under the rule of Trujillo.

De Botton: *The Art of Travel* c2004 *nonfiction, travel philosophy* A look at why we travel and how to get the most from our trips.

Erdrich: *Tracks: A Novel* c1988 *Native American fiction* In the early 1930s, orphans Karl and Mary Adare arrive by boxcar in a small town in North Dakota to find refuge with their aunt and uncle.

Gladwell: *Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* c2000 *nonfiction, social issues* Gladwell notes how small changes in human behavior can start a
fad or change the world.

**Hersey: Hiroshima** c1985 nonfiction, WWII An emotionally wrenching account of 6 survivors of the Hiroshima bombing. They vividly recount the horrors of the first few days and explain how their lives have been forever changed. The descriptions of what happened to the victims and the death that occurred are nightmarish yet all too real.

**Hopkins: Crank** c2004 realistic fiction After Kristina Snow meets a boy, she becomes a very different person.

**Lahiri: The Namesake** c2003 coming of age story, diversity Ashoke Ganguli, born in the United States of Indian parents, struggles with his identity from his teen years through his thirties.

**Larson: The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America** c2003 nonfiction, history Erik Larson tells the parallel stories of Daniel Burnham, the main architect of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, and serial killer Henry H. Homes, who used the fair to lure victims to their deaths. **Martel: Life of Pi** is a fantasy adventure novel written by Yann Martel. The story was inspired by Martel's childhood friend Eleanor and her adventures in India. In the story, the protagonist Piscine "Pi" Molitor Patel, an Indian boy from Rituals give structure to abstract ideas and emotions—in other words, ritual is an alternate form of storytelling. It was rituals and storytelling that kept Pi Patel sane.

**Matheson: I am Legend** c1954 science fiction Robert Neville appears to be the only survival of the human race after a disease has either killed everyone or has changed them into "vampires." How to overcome the loneliness and reverse what has happened, is Robert’s goal.

**Picoult: My Sister’s Keeper** c2004 psychological fiction, organ donations There are two sisters in a family of five, one is very sick and the other conceived to save the oldest sister. What happens to the entire family is told in this story.

**Plath: The Bell Jar** c1963 psychological fiction Esther Greenwood, a talented and beautiful young woman, undergoes a mental breakdown.

**Schlosser: Fast Food Nation** c2005 nonfiction  An alarming look into the origins and effects of the American fast-food industry.

**See: Snow Flower and the Secret Fan** c2005 historical fiction, China  This elegantly written novel takes place in 19th century China when girls suffered from foot binding. It tells the story of "nu shu," a secret language between Chinese women. The story is suspenseful and poignant and provides insight into a non-Western culture.

**Stockett: The Help** c2009 realistic fiction  Set during the beginning of the civil rights movement in Jackson, Miss., where black women were trusted to raise white children but not to polish the household silver. "Skeeter", a budding activist, begins to collect the stories of the women—the help—on whom the country club set relies shocking the white community while bringing hope to—the help.

**Walls: The Glass Castle: A Memoir** c2005 nonfiction, autobiography  The author tells the story of how she and her siblings eventually found the resources and will to leave home away from their alcoholic father and distant mother.

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**Twelfth Grade**

**Allende: Zorro** c2005 adventure fiction  Diego de la Vega returns to California to reclaim the home in which he was raised and to seek justice for the weak and helpless.

**Ambrose: Citizen Soldiers: The U.S. Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany** c1998 nonfiction, war  The story of American soldiers in
World War II, from the Normandy invasion to the German surrender.

**Atwood: The Handmaid’s Tale** c1986 science fiction Offred, a handmaid, tells of her life in the puritanical theocracy that had taken over America due to an "incident."

**Bissinger: Three Nights in August: Strategy, Heartbreak and Joy Inside the Mind of a Manager** c2006 nonfiction, sports Buzz Bissinger discusses baseball through the perspective of Tony LaRussa and focusing on a three game series between the Chicago Cubs and the St. Louis Cardinals in 2003.

**Bryson: A Short History of Nearly Everything** c2004 nonfiction, humor The science textbook that you always wished you had. It provides an intriguing whirlwind tour of the major branches of science, but without too much technical language.

**Cisneros: Caramelo** c2002 diversity, fiction Celaya Reyes travels from Chicago to Mexico City each summer and pulls together the stories of her Mexican-American family.

**Chandrasekaran: Imperial Life in the Emerald City** c2006 nonfiction Former Washington Post Baghdad bureau chief, Rajiv Chandrasekaran, explains what life is like in the protected region of U.S. controlled Baghdad. He details the decisions and mistakes made that have hindered the creation of a stable Iraq.

**Foer: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** c2005 psychological fiction After losing his father in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001, Oskar goes looking for the lock that a key that his father left behind will open.

**Frazier: Cold Mountain** c1997 Civil War fiction The story of two people’s lives as they endure the Civil War to once again find each other and start their lives together.

**Friedman: The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century** c2005 nonfiction, social issues Award-winning journalist suggests that the globe is "flattening" with technology binding more and more countries together.
**Goodwin:** *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II* c1994 *nonfiction*  
A fascinating account of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt’s marriage and remarkable partnership. The historical context of the World War II era provides insights into American and world history, and the Roosevelt storyline is intriguing. Goodwin’s research is first rate and the book is a Pulitzer Prize winner.

**Guterson:** *Snow Falling on Cedars* c1994 *historical fiction*  
A newspaper journalist covering the trial of a Japanese-American accused of murder comes to terms with his own past.

**Hosseini:** *Kite Runner* c2003 *coming of age fiction*  
A story of mystery, friendship, betrayal and redemption set in pre-war Afghanistan.

**Hughes:** *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes* c1995 *poetry*  
A collection of poems written by Langston Hughes over his lifetime.

**Kingsolver:** *The Poisonwood Bible: A Novel* c1998 *historical fiction*  
Saga of a missionary family in the Congo beginning in 1959, as told from the point of view of the various family members.

**Larkin:** *Finding George Orwell in Burma* c2005 *nonfiction, travel narrative*  
A great tie-in to the books written by George Orwell giving an in-depth account of the human rights issues that have been taking place in Burma.

**Mortenson and Relin:** *Three Cups of Tea* c2006 *nonfiction*  
Be inspired by a real life hero living in our times. Greg Mortenson climbed some of the highest mountain peaks in the world and then, became involved in even bigger challenges. This book reveals the culture and challenges of the people living in Pakistan and may inspire you to make a dramatic, positive impact on the world.

**Picoult:** *Nineteen Minutes* c2007 *psychological fiction*  
How does someone who was known to be so sensitive grow up to shoot 29 people in a high school? This is that high
school’s story.

Seierstad: *The Bookseller of Kabul* c2004 nonfiction, biography After living 3 months with a bookseller, a journalist writes of the nations’ journey to recover from war.


*Waer for Elephants* The story is told as a series of memories by Jacob Jankowski, a ninety or ninety-three year-old man who lives in a nursing home. As the memories begin, Jacob Jankowski is twenty-three years old and preparing for his final exams as a Cornell University veterinary student when he receives the news that his parents were killed in a car accident. Jacob’s father was a veterinarian and Jacob had planned to join his practice.

Walker: *The Color Purple* c1982 African American fiction The life stories of two African-American sisters, one an African missionary, the other an unhappy wife in the South, is communicated through their letters.

Xiaolong: *Death of a Red Heroine* c2000 detective fiction Follow Inspector Chen as he tries to solve the murder of a worker in the communist party. As the case unfolds, so do the difficulties of being a good detective versus the desires of the party.