

# FLHS 2009 SUMMER READING LIST

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## CLASSICS

### A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

This is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse.

### O Pioneers by Willa Cather

A gripping saga of love, murder, greed, failure, and triumph, *O Pioneers!* portrays the hardships of prairie life.

### The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas

This is the tale of young D'Artagnan and his musketeer comrades, Porthos, Athos and Aramis. Together they fight to foil the schemes of the brilliant, dangerous Cardinal Richelieu, who pretends to support the king while plotting to advance his own power.

### Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

Heathcliff and Cathy believe they're destined to love each other forever, but when cruelty and snobbery emerge, their emotions literally consume them.

## IF YOU LIKE THE CLASSICS...

### Firmin by Edgar Savage

In the basement of a bookstore, Firmin is born in a shredded copy *Finnegans Wake*, nurtured on a diet of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and *Jane Eyre* (which tastes a lot like lettuce). While his siblings gnaw these books, he ventures out of his home. It's a lot to ask of a rat, especially when his home is on the verge of annihilation.

### Mr. Darcy's Diary by Amanda Grange

Mr. Darcy's Diary presents the story of the unlikely courtship of Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy from his point of view.

## FICTION

### Before I Die by Jenny Downham

Tessa has just months to live. Fighting back against hospital visits, endless tests, drugs with excruciating side-effects, Tessa compiles a list. It's her To Do Before I Die list. And number one is Sex. Tessa tastes new experiences to make her feel alive while her failing body struggles to keep up.

### Bottle in the Gaza Sea by Valerie Zenatti

Teen Tal Levine witnesses a bombing in Tel Aviv, yet she wants Israel and Palestine to live in peace. She puts her hopes into a letter, places the letter into a bottle which is tossed into the Gaza Sea. A young man in Gaza finds the bottle, and eventually they participate in a friendship that opens their eyes.

### The Brothers Torres by Coert Voorhees

Steve is a popular senior who always gets what he wants while his brother, Frankie, is very different. Frankie has reservations about Steve's crusade to win the respect of the local cholos and starts to think that his brother is taking respect too far. He may have to choose between respecting his brother and himself.

### Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros

Through the eyes of young Celaya, the Reyes family saga twists and turns over three generations of truths, half-truths, and outright lies. Celaya gathers and retells the stories that reinforce her family's, and subsequently her own, identity as they travel between the U.S.-Mexican border and within the United States.

### Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski

Born mute, speaking only in sign, Edgar lives on his family's farm where they raise and train dogs. When tragedy strikes, he is forced to flee to the wilderness, with only three pups. He comes of age in the wild, and must face the choice of leaving forever or revealing the terrible truth behind what has happened.

### The Juvie Three by Gordon Korman

The leader of a halfway house, Healy, is accidentally knocked unconscious while trying to break up a fight. Terrified, the boys drop him off at a hospital and run away. When he wakes up with no memories, the guys hatch a crazy scheme to continue on as if the group leader never left.

### Little Bee by Chris Cleave

WE DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS BOOK. It is a truly special story and we don't want to spoil it. Nevertheless, you need to know something, so we will just say this: It is extremely funny, but the African beach scene is horrific. And it's what happens afterward that is most important.

### Paper Towns by John Green

When Margo beckons Quentin in the middle of the night-dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge-he follows her. Margo's always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she's always planned solo. Day breaks and she has vanished. She has now become a mystery. But there are clues for Q.

### The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid

A perspective on love, prejudice, and the war on terror that has never been seen in North American literature.

### The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama

Stephen is sent to his family's summer home in a Japanese coastal village to recover from a bout with tuberculosis. Here he is cared for by Matsu who is a samurai of the soul, a man devoted to doing good and finding beauty in a cruel and arbitrary world. Stephen learns to appreciate Matsu's generous and nurturing way.

### Skim by Mariko Tamaki

In the 90s, enter "Skim," a not-slim, would-be Wiccan goth. When her classmate is dumped by her boyfriend, who then kills himself, the entire school goes into mourning. Skim falls in love after a secret meetings with her neo-hippie English teacher, Ms. Archer. Teen life is explored in this masterful graphic novel.

### Story of a Girl by Sara Zarr

When she is caught in the backseat of a car with her older brother's best friend - Deanna Lambert's teenage life is changed forever. Struggling to overcome the lasting repercussions and the stifling role of "school slut," she longs to escape a life defined by her past.

### Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Meyers

Operation Iraqi Freedom, that's the code name. But the young men and women in the military's Civil Affairs Battalion have a simpler name for it: WAR. The whole unit of other young men and women are dropped in Iraq, where they are supposed to help stabilize Iraq and interact with the Iraqi people.

### Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

Since Tyler got busted for graffiti on the school and spent the summer doing outdoor work to pay for it, he stands out. He attracts the attention of Bethany, who is his father's boss's daughter, the sister of his biggest enemy and his secret crush. Events have him questioning school, family, and the world.

### Underneath by Kathi Appelt

A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this feline he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. He urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens where it will be safe. One kitten's moment of curiosity sets off a chain of events that is astonishing, remarkable, and enormous in its meaning.

## HISTORICAL FICTION

## Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing Vol. I: The Pox Party by M.T. Anderson

Set during the American Revolution, Octavian is raised as a pampered African prince by a society of philosophers who view him as an experiment. Realizing that his freedom is an illusion, he sets off on a journey to find freedom. This book challenges everything you have ever learned about the Revolutionary War.

## The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

When 16-year-old Helmuth listens to the news on an illegal short-wave radio, he discovers Germany is lying to the people. But when he tries to expose the truth, he's tried for treason and sentenced to death. He goes from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times, to a young man who thinks for himself.

## Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

In 1665, northern England remains untouched by the plague. Then, a small community has a bolt of cloth and don't know the damp fabric carries the deadly plague. They resort to sorcery, herb lore, murderous witch hunting and elect to isolate themselves in a quarantine that may only deepen the tragedy.

## NON-FICTION

### Born on a Blue Day by Daniel Tammet

This unique first-person account offers a window into the mind of a high-functioning, 27-year-old British autistic savant with Asperger's syndrome. His ability to think abstractly, deviate from routine, and interact and communicate with others is impaired, yet he's capable of incredible memorization and mental calculation.

### Inside the Kingdom by Carmen Bin Laden

The sister-in-law of Osama Bin Laden who fled her marriage in 1988 describes living in the gilded cage of a wealthy Saudi Arabian family.

### No Choirboy\* by Susan Kuklin

*No Choirboy* takes readers inside America's prisons, and allows inmates sentenced to death as teenagers to speak for themselves. In their own voices—raw and uncensored—they talk about their lives in prison, and share their thoughts and feelings about how they ended up there. (mature content)

### The Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

An intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"—the best and the brightest, the most famous and successful. What makes high-achievers different?

### Super Crunchers: Why Thinking-By-Numbers is the New Way to Be Smart by Ian Ayres

Using real-life examples from sports, medicine, online dating, and airline pricing, data about all of us is collected and "crunched" to profile consumers.

## SCI-FI/FANTASY

### Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson

Sometime in the near future, Jenna Fox, 17, awakens from an 18-month-long coma following a devastating accident, her memory nearly blank. Jenna can recite passages from Thoreau yet can't remember having any friends. As memories return, Jenna starts picking at the explanation her parents have spun until it unravels.

### Beastly by Alex Flinn

I am a beast. I am a monster. Yes, the spell, the one the witch in my English class cast on me. I'll tell you how I used to be Kyle Kingsbury, the guy you wished you were, with money, perfect looks, and the perfect life. And then, I'll tell you how I became perfectly . . . beastly.

### Duma Key by Stephen King

After a terrible accident, Edgar starts anew on a remote island and becomes consumed with making art. His artwork has the power to destroy life and to cure ailments, but soon the menace that haunts Duma Key begins to assert itself and torment those dear to him.

### Graceling by Kristin Cashore

Romantic medieval fantasy from a debut author

### The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be *completely* normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family . . .

### The Host by Stephenie Meyer

Melanie refuses to fade away. Earth has been invaded by a species that takes over the minds of their human hosts. Most humans have succumbed.

## MYSTERY/ACTION

### Act of Treason by Vince Flynn

CIA operative Mitch Rapp follows a trail of contract killers leading directly to the heart of our nation's capital.

### Circle of Blood by Alane Ferguson

Cameryn works as the assistant to her father, the county coroner. When her long lost mother picks up a mysterious young hitchhiker, she senses that the girl is running from something, but before she can find out more, the girl is found dead—with a gun in her hand. Is it suicide? Or something even more sinister?

### Deception Point by Dan Brown

When a NASA satellite discovers an astonishingly rare object buried deep in the Arctic ice, the floundering space agency proclaims a much-needed victory — a victory with profound implications for NASA policy and the impending presidential election.

### My Father's Son by Terri Fields

What if your father wasn't who you thought he was? Kevin has to face the worst imaginable possibility: that his father may be the man responsible for a series of vicious killings. How much does he really know about his father?

### Tenth Circle by Jodi Picoult

Suddenly everything Trixie has believed about her family and herself seems to be a lie. Could the boyfriend who once made her so happy have been the one to end her childhood forever? She says that he is, and that is all it takes to make her father, who has a secret, venture to hell and back to protect his daughter.

### What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell

While on vacation in 1947, Evie begins a flirtation with a handsome ex-GI, Peter, who served with her dad during the war. His presence is not a coincidence and threatens to uncover a terrible secret. When Peter and her parents go boating, but only two return, she must sort through secrets, lies, and grief to find the truth.

## SPORTS

### The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis

He is one of thirteen children by a mother addicted to crack; he does not know his real name, his father, or his birthday. And he has no serious experience playing organized football. Lewis shows a trend in football from the pros to the high school game, where it collides with the life of a single young man.

### Boost by Kathy Mackel

Thirteen-year-old Savvy is six two and full of raw basketball talent, but she gets pushed around on the court. Her older sister, is a freshman on varsity cheerleading, but she's not light enough to be a flier. When steroids are found in Savvy's bag, accusations are flying and nobody knows who is telling the truth.

### Mexican White Boy by Matt De La Pena

Danny's tall and skinny. Even though he's not built, he has a 95 mph fastball, but the boy's not even on a team. At his private school, they don't expect much from him. Before they find out he can't speak Spanish, and before they realize his mom has blond hair, they've got him pegged.