

Freshmen Summer Reading List 2010

The Tear Collector by Patrick Jones (Waupaca Book Festival Author: 10/2010)

Popular and gorgeous Cassandra is always willing to comfort those in need of a shoulder to cry on, at school, at her church, and at the hospital where she volunteers. However, Cassandra isn't just a nice girl. She is one of an ancient line of grief vampires who gain energy from human tears and her life depends on the pain of others. Cassandra's family expects her to collect tears and carry on the family line, but she's not sure if it's the right life for her. Can she ignore the feelings she has for a certain boy, or will she make the decision that will change not just her life, but that of her family as well?

Peak by Roland Smith

Peak has just been caught scaling a skyscraper and faces criminal charges. Instead of a trial and a serious punishment, the judge agrees to release Peak into his absentee father's care with the promise that Peak will be out of the country and therefore out of the newspapers. Peak soon realizes that his father's motives might not be with his best interests in mind. His father owns and operates a mountain climbing excursion company, and he wants Peak to make history for him by being the youngest climber to summit Everest - a dangerous and sometimes deadly climb for an experienced adult climber. Will Peak make it to the top? And does he really want to?

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Twelve-year old Percy Jackson can't figure out why he's had so much difficulty staying out of trouble, especially lately. After an exceptionally odd series of events, he learns he's a demigod, the son of a mortal and a Greek god. His new status means that he needs some special training at a summer camp for demigods. At camp, Percy finds even more trouble. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen; he must solve the riddle of the Oracle and bring peace to the troubled Mt. Olympus-all in ten days! Can Percy and his friends succeed? Will he ever forgive his real father-the Greek god who abandoned him and his mom?

Box Out by John Coy

High school sophomore Liam Bergstrom has just been given the chance of a lifetime-a place on the varsity basketball team! Filling in for an injured senior, Liam finds that he is constantly trying to catch up to his teammates, but being part of the team is more than he expected. The coach required team-wide participation in pre-game prayer, and Liam isn't sure if that is ok. He has to decide-will he jeopardize his new position on the team and take a stand against the coach, or will he just keep his mouth shut?

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living near Munich in Nazi Germany. Max Vandenburg is a Jewish man searching for safety in Nazi Germany. Liesel and Max's story is narrated by Death, who not only tells their story but also shares what the world was like during WWII. Liesel feels abandoned and lonely, but she finds relief in her books. Unfortunately, her foster family can not afford luxuries like books, so she steals them. Liesel becomes friends with a neighbor boy, Rudy Steiner, by proving that she is as tough as he is, and together they look for ways to survive. He soon becomes Liesel's friend and shares her love of words. In a book, however, narrated by Death, who will make it through WWII?

Graceling by Kristin Cashore

Katsa lives in a kingdom where some people are "Graced" with special abilities. Katsa's Grace is killing. She lives in her uncle's kingdom and serves as his personal army, carrying out his personal vendettas, even if she doesn't agree. One day she decides to disobey her uncle's orders and is forced to flee his kingdom. Although she is strong and independent, Katsa doesn't travel alone. She has the help of Prince Po, who is also Graced as a fighter. Together, they travel to rescue Po's niece, Bitterblue, and save the kingdom from a corrupt king. While rescuing Bitterblue, Katsa must push her Grace to the limit, surviving a dangerous trek over impassable mountains and a perilous sea voyage all while keeping Bitterblue's identity a secret. Can Katsa and Po get Bitterblue to safety, or will they be captured?

Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman

Falling in love with the enemy.....Opposites attract.....*Romeo and Juliet*.....All of these phrases reflect the predicament that Vince Luca finds himself in with the daughter of an FBI agent. What's the big deal? It wouldn't be if Vince's father wasn't a notorious leader of the mob, one of the FBI's most wanted. *Son of the Mob* is a humorous tale of a teenage boy who makes good choices for the right reasons but still finds himself in one traumatic situation after another. Destiny just isn't on his side.

The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian

Josh Swenson, a 17 year old boy, is tired of living in a world where everyone shops at the same places and eats at the same restaurants. He longs to live in a world where people thrive on each others differences. In an attempt to make the world a better place, Josh virtually created Larry who turns into exactly what Josh despises. How will he deal with the virtual monster he has created?

Marley and Me by John Grogan

If you love dogs, have ever owned a weird canine, or trained a puppy, this is the book for you. *Marley and Me* is the best seller by John Grogan who writes about "life and love in the world's worst dog." This book will make you laugh out loud and silently tear up. A quick read, this book will make you want to hug a cuddly dog.

Catalyst by Laurie Halse Anderson

Laurie Halse Anderson authored not only *Speak*, but also *Catalyst*. In this novel, Kate Malone is a high school senior who has it all - good grades, athletic accomplishments, a boyfriend going to Harvard, and her own dreams of attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology. What could go wrong? Kate, however, learns to look at her life much differently as her life starts to spin out of control as one tragedy occurs after another.

Cut by Patricia McCormick

Callie is certain she is responsible for her brother's illness, and the only way she's found to deal with her guilt is by cutting herself. As she gets to know others at the treatment facility where she has been sent, she realizes that her guilt and need to hurt herself bond her to these people.

Hanging on to Max by Margaret Bechard

There are no easy answers for Sam, a high school junior who decides to retain custody of his son, Max. As a result, his responsibilities rapidly multiply and his dream of earning a college degree dissipates; his carefree teenage lifestyle is a thing of the past and his friends just can't relate. This book paints a realistic picture of teenage parenthood and reminds the reader that choices always have consequences.

Just Listen by Sarah Dessen

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen year-old Annabel finds an ally in a classmate, Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end of the year party that changed her life.