

Summer Reading List for Sophomores

In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.

-- Mortimer Jerome Adler

As a way to get you reading over the summer, your Public Librarians and 10th grade English teachers have devised this list of high-interest books for you. Read ONE of these books over the summer. Next fall, you will be tested on the book as your first English 10 grade of the year. Easy points! **(Most of the books are on reserve at the public library and are available at any book store.)**

Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen

It's been so long since Auden slept at night. Ever since her parents' divorce—or since the fighting started. Now she has the chance to spend a carefree summer with her dad and his new family in the charming beach town where they live.

A job in a clothes boutique introduces Auden to the world of girls: their talk, their friendship, their crushes. She missed out on all that, too busy being the perfect daughter to her demanding mother. Then she meets Eli, an intriguing loner and a fellow insomniac who becomes her guide to the nocturnal world of the town. Together they embark on parallel quests: for Auden, to experience the carefree teenage life she's been denied; for Eli, to come to terms with the guilt he feels for the death of a friend.

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has won the annual Hunger Games with fellow district tribute Peeta Mellark. But it was a victory won by defiance of the Capitol and their harsh rules. Katniss and Peeta should be happy. After all, they have just won for themselves and their families a life of safety and plenty. But there are rumors of rebellion among the subjects, and Katniss and Peeta, to their horror, are the faces of that rebellion. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson (the Waupaca Public Library will be hosting a traveling Lincoln exhibit—one of only 25 sites nationwide hosting this exhibit!)

This exciting account of President Lincoln's assassination and the 12-day search for his killer reads like a historical thriller. The dialogue all comes from original sources, which adds a chill to the already disturbing conspiracy! Get ready for a journey which takes you hour by hour, following the brutal murder scene at Ford's Theatre. The text is accompanied by abundant period photos of the key players in the conspiracy and numerous historical documents.

Chasing Tail Lights by Patrick Jones (this author will be visiting Waupaca in October, 2010)

Before he died, Christy's daddy used to say that when you feel lost, follow the tail lights of the truck in front of you, and they'll get you somewhere safe. Christy keeps chasing those tail lights, but somehow, she's always still lost in Flint, Michigan. Like most teens in Flint, she's dying to leave this dying city. But she's got a secret that she's never told anyone, and it's keeping her chained like a dog to her dead-end life. And she'll never be able to make a fresh start until she's able to reveal that horrible truth and bring herself back into the light.

Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

The simple story of a man, his house, and a bulldozer. Might also include: the destruction of Earth, intergalactic hitchhiking tips, poetry as torture, a two-headed politician/villain, purple-Shakespeare-reading-monkeys, and flying whales. Science fiction+philosophy=funny.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

This is a sci-fi novel where humans with computer chips for brains are used as slaves, and the wealthy of the world sustain their lives by using organ transplants from clones. Matt, a clone of a feudal drug lord, runs away but becomes trapped by another type of slavery.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Thomas wakes up, disoriented and confused, in an enclosed space known as “the Glade.” The local populace, a group of boys ranging in age from 14-17 call themselves the Gladers. Like Thomas, none of them remember anything from their lives before the Glade. Thomas soon learns that the Glade is surrounded by an enormous and ever-changing maze. The Gladers have been searching for two years for an exit, and still haven’t found one. Their progress is hindered by the fact that the maze is prowled by deadly Grievers, monstrous mutations made of metal and flesh that kill anything in their path. The next day a girl arrives in the Glade. There has never been a girl in the Glade. The girl is unconscious. And in her hand she holds a terrifying message, “She’s the last one. Ever.”

My Most Excellent Year by Steve Kluger

Boston teens T. C. and Augie are such close friends that their families acknowledge them as brothers. Alejandra has recently arrived from Washington, D.C., where her father served as a Mexican ambassador to the U.S. Written in multiple voices and nontraditional formats, including instant messages and school assignments, Kluger’s crowded, exuberant novel follows the three high-school freshman through an earth-shaking year in which musical-theater-obsessed Augie realizes that he is gay, Alejandra reveals her theatrical talents to disapproving parents, and T. C. tries to make a deaf child’s greatest wish come true. At the center are heart-pulling romances and a broadening sense of what family means.

Paper Towns by John Green (the author will be visiting Waupaca in October, 2010)

Quentin Jacobsen has loved his neighbor, the magnificent and bold Margo Roth Spiegelman, his entire life. So when she climbs in his window and back into his life—dressed like a ninja and summoning him for high adventure—he follows. After their all-night campaign of revenge against classmates who have troubled Margo, Q arrives at school to discover she is missing. Q soon learns she has left clues—and they’re for him. With nothing to guide him but a seemingly random collection of maps, books, online entries, and an annotated copy of Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*, Q and his friends must find Margo and discover the meaning behind her “paper towns.”

The Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin

In a letter to his youngest sister, Emmy, 17 year old Matt tries to explain *The Rules of Survival*. Matt and his two sisters have endured manic highs and lows and cruelty by their unpredictable mother, Nikki. Other adults in their lives—their father and their aunt—recognized Nikki’s rough treatment of the kids, but it’s easier for them to look the other way. When Nikki’s ex-boyfriend, Murdoch, befriends the children, they want to believe that a normal future is possible, but will they be disappointed yet again?

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell

When Evie Spooner’s step-father, Joe, returns from the World War II, she and her family fall back into their old patterns. Joe is doing well at his business, her mom and grandmother are back to fighting for his attention, and Evie is herself, only more grown-up. In a moment of apparent restlessness, Joe takes the family for a vacation in Florida during the off-season. While there, the family is confronted by Peter Coleridge, a soldier who knew Joe in the War. Evie begins to fall in love with Peter, choosing to ignore the obvious discomfort he causes Joe and the less obvious, but equally tense relationship between Peter and her mother. Evie slowly recognizes a web of lies surrounding the three but chooses to ignore it. She is able to avoid the situation for awhile, but after a fatal sailing accident, Evie is forced to take someone’s side. Whose will she take?