

Brighton High School Summer Reading 2009

Grab a book and read this summer! Then grab another one, and then one more, and one more after that! Below you will find some guidelines for summer reading along with recommendations for students entering Grades 9 – 12. Feel free to contact the English Department with any questions: Call Mrs. Anne Maier, English Department Coordinator at 242-5043 or e-mail anne_maier@bcsd.org.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are there specific books that students must read over summer vacation?

Only students enrolled in AP Language and Composition (Grade 11) and AP English Literature (Grade 12) receive required reading assignments that must be completed by September.

All other students are encouraged to read as much as possible, but no specific titles are required.

Will students be tested on summer reading in September?

Only students in AP courses will be tested in September.

All other students will benefit from summer reading because their reading skills will grow stronger; consequently, they will be more prepared for their upcoming academic courses.

What types of books should students read over the summer?

Parents should work with their teenagers to select a variety of reading experiences. We encourage students to read fiction and non-fiction, poetry and drama, essays and short stories. Variety in selection and variety of challenge level are important for developing readers. Titles suggested in this newsletter along with the numerous book lists provided on the Internet can be helpful in the search for good summer reading.

A good place to start? Try **"The Modern Library 100 Best"** at <http://www.randomhouse.com/modernlibrary/100best.html>

The goal of the Modern Library's "100 Best" project is to get people talking about great books. At this site the Modern Library has included its original list and a sampling of others.

9th and 10th graders might consider:

The Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula LeGuin
Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder
The Chosen by Chaim Potok
The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart
The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver
Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
City of Joy by Dominique LaPierre
The Amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud
Snow In August by Pete Hamill

Some suggestions for 11th and 12th graders:

My Antonia by Willa Cather
The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
Life of Pi by Yann Martel
Gentlemen of the Road: A Tale of Adventure by Michael Chabon
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

St. Maybe by Anne Tyler
A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines
Moby Dick by Herman Melville
East of Eden by John Steinbeck
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Consider recently published Biographies, Memoirs, and other Non-Fiction:

The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music
by Steve Lopez, 2008
The Ten Most Beautiful Experiments by George Johnson, 2008
The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World by Steven Johnson, 2006
Why Beauty is Truth: A History of Symmetry by Ian Stewart, 2007
At Work by Annie Leibovitz, 2008
There is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Africa's Children by Melissa Fay Greene, 2006
Einstein: His Life and Universe by Walter Isaacson, 2007
Obsessive Genius: The Inner World of Marie Curie by Barbara Goldsmith, 2005
Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder, 2003
Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard
by Mawsi Asgedom, 2002
Letter to My Daughter by Maya Angelou, 2008

Don't forget about poetry! Consider a poem a day:

The Academy of American Poets www.poets.org

Poetry 180 www.loc.gov/poetry/180/

Find an award-winner:

The National Book Award <http://www.nationalbook.org>

The Mann Booker Prize <http://www.themanbookerprize.com/>

The Pulitzer Prize <http://www.pulitzer.org>

Pen/Faulkner Award for Fiction <http://www.penfaulkner.org/>

The Edgars (awards for mysteries) <http://www.mysterywriters.org/pages/awards/index.htm>

The Hugo Award (science fiction) <http://www.worldcon.org/hugos.html>

"Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life." - Mortimer Adler