

Brighton High School Summer Reading 2010

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 *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas
The Chosen by Chaim Potok *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart *City of Joy* by Dominique LaPierre
The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver *The Amulet of Samarkand* by Jonathan Stroud
Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands by Susan Carol McCarthy *Snow In August* by Pete Hamill

Some suggestions for 11th and 12th graders:

The Road by Cormac McCarthy *St. Maybe* by Anne Tyler
A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
Life of Pi by Yann Martel *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
Gentlemen of the Road: A Tale of Adventure by Michael Chabon
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck
Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
The Help by Kathryn Stockett *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett

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
Look Me In The Eye: My Life With Asperger's by John Elder Robison, 2007
Funny In Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas, 2004
Outcasts United: An American Town, A Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference by Warren St. John, 2009
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