

Ninth Grade Required Summer Reading 2007

History:

Hesse, Herman. **Siddhartha**

\$5.99

In the novel, *Siddhartha*, a young man, leaves his family for a contemplative life, then restless, discards it for one of the flesh. He conceives a son, but bored and sickened by lust and greed, moves on again. Near despair, Siddhartha comes to a river where he hears a unique sound. This sound signals the true beginning of his life -- the beginning of suffering, rejection, peace, and, finally, wisdom.

English:

Rising 9th-graders are to choose TWO books for summer reading. During the course of the summer, each student will keep a reading journal to chart the course of his/her progress through each book. The instructor will collect this journal on the first day of classes.

Alain-Fournier, Henri. **Le Grand Meaulnes**.

\$14.00

The only novel by a brilliant young man who was killed in action in 1914 at the age of twenty-seven, it is a masterly exploration of the twilight world between boyhood and manhood, with its mixture of idealism, realism and sheer caprice.

Bradbury, Ray. **Dandelion Wine**.

\$7.99

The summer of '28 was a vintage season for a growing boy. A summer of green apple trees, mowed lawns, and new sneakers. Of half-burnt firecrackers, of gathering dandelions, of Grandma's belly-busting dinner. It was a summer of sorrows and marvels and gold-fuzzed bees. A magical, timeless summer in the life of a twelve-year-old boy named Douglas Spaulding—remembered forever by the incomparable Ray Bradbury

Chbosky, Stephen. **Perks of Being a Wallflower**.

\$13.00

This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. We may not know where he lives. We may not know to whom he is writing. All we know is the world he shares. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it puts him on a strange course through uncharted territory. The world of first dates and mixed tapes, family dramas and new friends. The world of sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, when all one requires is that perfect song on that perfect drive to feel infinite.

Through Charlie, Stephen Chbosky has created a deeply affecting coming-of-age story, a powerful novel that will spirit you back to those wild and poignant roller coaster days known as growing up.

Clarke, Arthur C. **2001: A Space Odyssey**.

\$7.99

Written when landing on the moon was still a dream, made into one of the most influential films of our century, brilliant, compulsive, prophetic, *2001: A Space Odyssey* tackles the enduring theme of man's place in the universe.

On the moon an enigma is uncovered. So great are the implications that, for the first time, men are sent out deep into the solar system. But, before they can reach their destination, things begin to go wrong. Horribly wrong.

- Dahl, Roald. **Boy**. **\$6.99**
 In *Boy*, Roald Dahl recounts his days as a child growing up in England. From his years as a prankster at boarding school to his envious position as a chocolate tester for Cadbury's, Roald Dahl's boyhood was as full of excitement and the unexpected as are his world-famous, best-selling books. Packed with anecdotes— some funny, some painful, all interesting— this is a book that's sure to please.
- DeFoe, Daniel. **Robinson Crusoe**. **\$4.95**
 Based on a real-life incident, *Robinson Crusoe* tells the story of a young man who yearns to escape the mundane world and set sail for a life of adventure in faraway places. Defying his father's wishes he leaves on board a ship, then finds himself marooned on a tropical island where he wrestles with his fate and ponders the nature of God and man.
- Dillard, Annie. **An American Childhood**. **\$14.00**
 Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Dillard's poignant, vivid memoir of growing up in Pittsburgh in the 1950s.
- Eco, Umberto. **The Name of the Rose**. **\$15.00**
 The year is 1327. Franciscans in a wealthy Italian abbey are suspected of heresy, and Brother William of Baskerville arrives to investigate. When his delicate mission is suddenly overshadowed by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William turns detective. His tools are the logic of Aristotle, the theology of Aquinas, the empirical insights of Roger Bacon - all sharpened to a glistening edge by wry humor and a ferocious curiosity. He collects evidence, deciphers secret symbols and coded manuscripts, and digs into the eerie labyrinth of the abbey, where "the most interesting things happen at night."
- Greene, Graham. **This Gun For Hire**.
 The assassination of an influential public figure leads to a complicated web of betrayal and murder. As the double-crossed assassin hunts down his former employers, a policeman and his fiancée find themselves on opposite sides of the fray.
A new copy of this book will not be available at the book fair. Please utilize your local library if you wish to read it.
- Herriot, James. **All Creatures Great and Small**. **\$7.99**
 Young James, now married and working as a small-town vet, encounters a cast of extraordinary characters as he makes his way through the Yorkshire countryside tending to sick cattle, pregnant ewes, ailing dogs -- and their eccentric owners. As always, Herriot's warmth, humor, and singular view of life makes us laugh and cry, as we marvel at the everyday miracles he creates.
- Kawabata, Yasunari. **Thousand Cranes**. **\$12.00**
 With a restraint that barely conceals the ferocity of his characters' passions, one of Japan's great postwar novelists tells the luminous story of Kikuji and the tea party he attends with Mrs. Ota, the rival of his dead father's mistress. A tale of desire, regret, and sensual nostalgia, every gesture has a meaning, and even the most fleeting touch or casual utterance has the power to illuminate entire lives—sometimes in the same moment that it destroys them.
- Kincaid, Jamaica. **Annie John**. **\$11.00**
 This is a story of a young girl coming of age in Antigua, Kincaid tears open the theme that lies at the heart of all her fierce, incantatory novels: the ambivalent and essential bonds created by a mother's love.

Kinsella, W.P. **Shoeless Joe.** **\$13.00**

"If you build it, he will come." These mysterious words of an Iowa baseball announcer lead Ray Kinsella to carve a baseball diamond in his cornfield in honor of his hero, the baseball legend Shoeless Joe Jackson. This is a book "not so much about baseball as it is about dreams, magic, life, and what is quintessentially American," said the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Kipling, Rudyard. **The Jungle Book.** **\$3.99**

The tale of a baby abandoned and brought up by wolves, educated in the ways and secrets of the jungle by Kaa the python, Baloo the bear, and Bagheera the black panther. The stories, a mixture of fantasy, myth, and magic, are underpinned by Kipling's abiding preoccupation with the theme of self-discovery, and the nature of the 'Law'.

London, Jack. **The Sea Wolf.** **\$3.99**

Pressed into service aboard the Ghost, Humphrey Van Weyden becomes an unwilling participant in a tense shipboard drama. The vessel's deranged and abusive captain, Wolf Larsen, perpetrates an atmosphere of increasing violence that ultimately boils into mutiny, shipwreck, and a desperate confrontation. This 1904 maritime classic depicts the clash of materialistic and idealistic cultures with a captivating combination of gritty realism and sublime lyricism.

McCullers, Carson. **The Member of the Wedding.** **\$7.95**

A novel about Frankie Addams, a bored twelve-year-old madly jealous of her brother's impending marriage. Frankie was afraid of the dark and envious of the older girls. But as F. Jasmine, in a pink dress, she looked sixteen. No longer a child, she accepted a date with a red-haired soldier and purchased a sophisticated gown for the wedding. F. Jasmine had plans.

Nabokov, Vladimir. **Speak, Memory.** **\$14.00**

Speak, Memory, first published in 1951 as *Conclusive Evidence* and then assiduously revised in 1966, is an elegant and rich evocation of Nabokov's life and times, even as it offers incisive insights into his major works, including *Lolita*, *Pnin*, *Invitation of a Beethoven*, *The Eye*, *The Invitation of a Beethoven*, and *The Defense*.

Paton, Alan. **Cry, the Beloved Country.** **\$14.00**

Cry, the Beloved Country is a beautifully told and profoundly compassionate story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set in the troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940s. A classic tale, passionately African, timeless and universal, and beyond all, selfless.

Porter, Connie Rose. **All Bright Court.** **\$12.00**

Set in a colorfully painted but crumbling housing project near a Buffalo, New York, steel mill, this "novel full of wisdom, grace and poetry" (Newsday) traces two decades in the lives of the project's residents. At the heart of this collective portrait is the Taylor family: Sam, Mary Kate, and their five children. For the Taylors and their neighbors, this is a time of tremendous optimism. The oldest boy, Mikey, shows special promise at school. Sam eats alongside his white coworkers at the local diner after his shift in the mill's inferno. The door to the white world seems to be opening. But time fades optimism: the steel industry falters, men lose their jobs. Mikey learns to distrust hope. The miracle of this heartbreaking story is its warmth in the face of tragic disappointment. All-Bright Court illuminates the dignity, faith, and humor that enable people to endure a world bound by devastating reality.

Robinson, Marilynne. **Housekeeping.** **\$14.00**

Housekeeping is the story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who grow up haphazardly, first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of two comically bumbling great-aunts, and finally of Sylvie, their eccentric and remote aunt. The family house is in the small Far West town of Fingerbone, which is set on a glacial lake, the same lake where their grandfather died in a spectacular train wreck and their mother drove off a cliff to her death. It is a town "chastened by an outsized landscape and extravagant weather, and chastened again by an awareness that the whole of human history had occurred elsewhere." Ruth and Lucille's struggle toward adulthood illuminates the price of loss and survival, and the dangerous and deep undertow of transience.

Salinger, J.D. **Nine Stories.** **\$5.99**

Since the publication of *The Catcher in the Rye* in 1951, the works of J.D. Salinger have been acclaimed for their humor, intensity, and their lack of phoniness. A collection of short fiction, *Nine Stories* contains works with those qualities that make Salinger such a well-loved author.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **Kidnapped.** **\$4.99**

Classic adventure novel, set in the year 1751, centers around David Balfour, a young Scotsman orphaned by the death of his father. Betrayed by his uncle, the young hero is shanghaied and headed for bondage in the New World, until a swashbuckling highlander comes to his rescue.

Twain, Mark. **A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.** **\$3.50**

Knocked unconscious by a crowbar at a factory in Hartford, Connecticut, Hank Morgan awakens to find himself a member of King Arthur's court, where he sets about outsmarting petty villains and righting 6th-century wrongs.

Tyler, Anne. **Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant.** **\$14.95**

Pearl Tull is nearing the end of her life but not her memory. Ever since 1944 when her husband left her, she has raised her three very different children on her own. Now grown, they have gathered together—with anger, with hope, and with a beautiful, harsh, and dazzling story to tell...

**All prices are approximate and are subject to change.

**Annotations are provided from:

Amazon.com. 6 Apr. 2005 <<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/subst/home/home.html/103-1492959-7215041>>.

Barnesandnoble.com. 6 Apr. 2005 <<http://barnesandnoble.com/>>.