

Some Summer Reading Recommendations

adventure

Horowitz, Anthony. *Ark Angel*.

After recovering from a near-fatal gunshot wound, teenage spy Alex Rider embarks on a new mission to stop a group of eco-terrorists from sabotaging the launch of the first outer space hotel.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*.

An effort to explain what happened to Chris McCandless, who walked into the Alaskan wilderness alone and was found dead four months later.

Patterson, James. *The Angel Experiment*. (Maximum Ride Series.)

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Read, Piers Paul. *Alive*.

This is the true account of 14 young men who survived a plane crash and 70 days of isolation in the snow-covered Andes Mountains.

contemporary novels

Alvarez, Julia. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*.

Four Latina girls move from a privileged and protected life in Santo Domingo to the Bronx, where they rebel against Mamí and Papí and old-world discipline.

Korman, Gordon. *Son of the Mob*.

Vince, the son of the mob boss, is in love with the daughter of the FBI agent investigating his father. (Move over, Romeo and Juliet!)

Myracle, Lauren. *Peace, Love & Baby Ducks*.

Fifteen-year-old Carly's summer volunteer experience makes her feel more real than her life of privilege in Atlanta ever did, but her younger sister starts high school pretending to be what she is not, and both find their relationships suffering.

Myers, Walter. *Street Love*.

The feelings are strong, but the love is wrong. Who is to say? What should Junice and Damian do?

fantasy

Anthony, Piers. *A Spell for Chameleon*.

Xanth is a magic land where every citizen has a unique form of magic, everyone except one who may soon be banished. This is the first in a series of over thirty books.

Larbalestier, Justine. *Magic's Child*.

Fifteen-year-old Reason Cansino's life, drastically changed since her mother went insane and she learned about her family's relationship with magic, must decide which path to take between magic and madness--use too much and die, use too little and go insane.

graphic novels

Castellucci, Cecil. *Plain Janes*.

Four high-school outsiders named Jane plan and commit "art attacks" in which they plant works of art signed "P.L.A.I.N." (People Loving Art in Neighborhoods) all around the city.

Horowitz, Antony. *Stormbreaker: The Graphic Novel*. (Alex Rider Series #1.)

Fourteen-year-old Alex knows his uncle did not really die in a car accident. Accidents don't put bullet holes through the windshield. But now he discovers that his uncle was a spy! This is the graphic version of the first novel in a series of seven.

Vaughan, Brian K. *Runaways*.

The Runaways are suspicious of a secret super-villain society; and Molly Hayes must survive a night alone on the streets of Los Angeles.

Wood, Brian, 1972-. *The New York Four*.

Riley, a shy straight-A student, comes out of her shell when she becomes best friends with three other freshmen who join her in her explorations of Manhattan, but her new life is threatened by a developing online romance.

memoirs and true accounts

Carson, Ben. *Gifted Hands*.

In this inspiring story, a man beats the odds to become a world renowned pediatric neurologist.

Hawk, Tony. *Hawk: Occupation Skateboarder*.

A hand-me-down skateboard and a homemade ramp in the driveway; the rest is history!

Paulsen, Gary. *Guts*.

The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson.

mystery

Cormier, Robert. *The Rag and Bone Shop*.

Trent, ace investigator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of killing his seven-year-old neighbor.

Ferguson, Alane. *The Christopher Killer*.

Cameryn Mahoney, on the payroll as assistant to her coroner father, puts herself in danger when she uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch her friend's killer.

Jinks, Catherine. *The Reformed Vampire Support Group*.

Fifteen-year-old vampire Nina has been stuck for fifty-one years in a boring support group for vampires, and nothing exciting has ever happened to them--until one of them is murdered and the others must try to solve the crime.

science fiction

Pearson, Mary (Mary E.). *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*.

In the not-too-distant future when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Stephens, J. B. *The Big Empty*.

After half of the world's population is killed by a plague, seven teenagers seek a better life in a nightmarish future by deciphering coded messages and trying to avoid the Slashers.

sports

Coy, John. *Crackback*.

After being sidelined by a new coach, criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance enhancing drugs, Miles barely recalls when football was just fun.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam!*

"Slam" Harris is counting on his basketball talent to give him a chance to succeed, but his coach sees things differently.

HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2010



Purpose

Reading all year round helps students keep their reading and critical thinking skills in shape. Summertime is special because it gives students a chance to read something that captures *their* imagination, something that has *not* been assigned to an entire class.

Reading Requirements

All students in Hamden Public Schools **must** read at least **two** books during summer vacation. They may choose any books that interest them, but we also offer a list of books that have attracted a lot of reader interest. This brochure provides some recommendations for summer reading. For a complete list, visit the HHS website (www.hamden.org/hamdenhigh). Summer reading contributes to the first marking period grade in English through a test given in September. Students may bring notes to help them on the test. Test questions and a note taking pages are also available on the website.

