

# District Summer Reading List

Incoming Tenth Graders for the 2022 – 2023 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage students to read (or have read aloud) an approved novel that appeals to their own personal interests, instilling a love of reading as well as increasing literacy across the district. The following books were chosen based on many criteria, including reading level, student interest, and more.

Students can choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below.

## Happy reading!



Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>The Odyssey</i> <a href="#">Digital version</a>	Homer	Poetry	If the Iliad is the world's greatest war epic, the Odyssey is literature's grandest evocation of an everyman's journey through life. Odysseus' reliance on his wit and wiliness for survival in his encounters with divine and natural forces during his ten-year voyage home to Ithaca after the Trojan War is at once a timeless human story and an individual test of moral endurance.
<i>Alexander Hamilton</i>	Ron Chernow	Biography	Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Chernow presents a landmark biography of Alexander Hamilton, the Founding Father who galvanized, inspired, scandalized, and shaped the newborn nation. In the first full-length biography of Alexander Hamilton in decades, Ron Chernow tells the riveting story of a man who overcame all odds to shape, inspire, and scandalize the newborn America. The book became the inspiration for the hit musical, <i>Hamilton</i> , by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

\*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.

Images: <https://slidesmania.com/>

<b><i>My Brother Sam is Dead</i></b>	Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier	Historical Fiction	My Brother Sam Is Dead is a 1974 young-adult historical fiction novel by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier. The book takes place in Redding, Connecticut during the American Revolution, and is told from the perspective of a young boy, Tim Meeker.
<b><i>Great Expectations</i></b> <a href="#"><u>Digital version</u></a>	Charles Dickens	Fiction	In what may be Dickens's best novel, humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride.
<b><i>Tears of a Tiger</i></b> <a href="#"><u>Digital version</u></a>	Sharon Draper	Fiction	After a car accident resulting in the death of his longtime friend and fellow Hazelwood Tiger, Andy, the driver, blames himself and cannot get past his guilt and pain. While his other friends have managed to work through their grief and move on, Andy allows death to become the focus of his life. In the months that follow the accident, the lives of Andy and his friends are traced through a series of letters, articles, homework assignments, and dialogues, and it becomes clear that Tigers do indeed need to cry.

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<i>Lord of the Flies</i> <a href="#">Digital version</a>	William Golding	Fiction	At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this far from civilization the boys can do anything they want. Anything. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued.
<i>This Side of Paradise</i> <a href="#">Digital version</a>	F. Scott Fitzgerald	Fiction	<i>This Side of Paradise</i> follows the life of young Amory Blaine in the tumultuous America of the early twentieth century. Highly sophisticated yet hopelessly romantic, Amory flounders from prep school to Princeton to glittering Jazz Age New York, confident that he is destined for greatness but unsure how to go about it.

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***A Raisin in the Sun***

Lorraine  
Hansberry

Drama

Set in 1950s Chicago, the story tells of an African American family's experiences as they attempt to improve their financial circumstances with an insurance payout following the death of the father. The play also deals with the conflict between the family members and their perceptions in the face of injustice.

[Digital version](#)

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***Twelve Years a Slave***

Solomon  
Northup

Memoir

Twelve Years a Slave is an 1853 memoir and slave narrative by American Solomon Northup as told to and edited by David Wilson. Northup, a black man who was born free in New York state, details his being tricked to go to Washington, D.C., where he was kidnapped and sold into slavery in the Deep South.

[Digital version](#)

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# District Summer Reading List

Incoming Twelfth Graders for the 2022 – 2033 School Year

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<b><i>Grendel</i></b> <a href="#">Digital version - part 1</a> <a href="#">Digital version - part 2</a>	John Gardner	Fiction	Grendel is a 1971 novel by the American author John Gardner. It is a retelling of part of the Old English poem Beowulf from the perspective of the antagonist, Grendel. In the novel, Grendel is portrayed as an antihero.
<b><i>Ophelia</i></b>	Lisa Klein	Fiction - Young Adult	He is Hamlet, Prince of Denmark; she is simply Ophelia. If you think you know their story, think again. In this reimagining of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, it is Ophelia who takes center stage. A rowdy, motherless girl, she grows up at Elsinore Castle to become the queen's most trusted lady-in-waiting. Ambitious for knowledge and witty as well as beautiful, Ophelia learns the ways of power in a court where nothing is as it seems. When she catches the attention of the captivating, dark-haired Prince Hamlet, their love blossoms in secret. But bloody deeds soon turn Denmark into a place of madness, and Ophelia's happiness is shattered. Ultimately, she must choose between her love for Hamlet and her own life. In desperation, Ophelia devises a treacherous plan to

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Images: <https://slidesmania.com/>

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escape from Elsinore forever . . . with one very dangerous secret.

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***Brave New World***

Aldous Huxley

Science Fiction

The novel opens in the year 632 A.F. (which means After Ford). All of civilization has been destroyed by a great war. Then there is another war, the Nine Years War, which ushers in the era of Ford, ensuring stability through dictatorship. The society depicted in the novel is based on a rigid caste system. The higher of the five castes enjoy superior tasks, while the lower ones perform menial roles. Ten Controllers hold all the power in this new world and peace is maintained by conditioning infant minds and by soothing adults. The population is further controlled through scientific methods; marriage is forbidden, and children are not born but produced in an embryo factory. Would you want to live in a world like this?

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[Digital version](#)