



June 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students Entering Grade 11,

Summer Reading is a great opportunity for students to enjoy literature and strengthen the literacy skills necessary for academic achievement. Please find enclosed a list of Summer Reading books that are appropriate for your child's grade level. Visit the Haverhill Public Schools website for the lists of all approved books and reading logs:

<http://www.haverhill-ps.org/curriculum-department/reading-lists/>

Students are required to read **two** books (one fiction and one non-fiction), but are encouraged to read as many as possible. Books are available at the Haverhill Public Library and at local bookstores, such as Barnes & Noble. Many of these titles are also available as eBooks and/or audiobooks.

In September students will be given an assignment related to their summer reading. Teachers create assignments that address plot, character, setting, theme, conflict, etc. Students may be asked to write a brief essay, interview each other about their books, present a book report to the class, or create a project (i.e., book jacket, book cube, collage, poster). To help with these assignments, students are encouraged to take notes as they read.

Please encourage your child to read as many books as possible, but bear in mind that many families rely on the Haverhill Public Library. In consideration of others, please check out only one or two books at a time, and return them as soon as possible. This will allow all children to benefit from the local public library – a wonderful resource.

Thank you for supporting our Summer Reading Program.

*Happy Reading!*

## HAVERHILL: ENTERING GRADE 11 SUMMER READING LIST 2017

The list below contains summer reading selections for students entering Grades 11 at HHS. Choose two books, one from **each** list, and read them by the start of the school year. An assignment will be given during the first two weeks of school, and this score will be averaged with your first quarter English grade. Some titles may be available in eBook or audiobook format at the public library and local bookstores.

### FICTION

#### ***Tyrell***

Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he does not end up in jail like his father.

**Coe Booth**

#### ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***

Charlie is a wallflower--shy and introspective, and intelligent beyond his years, if not very savvy in the social arts. We learn about Charlie through the letters he writes to someone of undisclosed name, age, and gender, a stylistic technique that adds to the heart-wrenching earnestness saturating this teen's story. Charlie's letters take on the intimate feel of a journal as he shares his day-to-day thoughts and feelings.

**Stephen Chbosky**

#### ***Ready Player One***

Immersing himself in a technological virtual utopia to escape an ugly real world of famine, poverty, and disease, Wade Watts joins an increasingly violent effort to solve a series of puzzles by the virtual world's creator.

**Ernest Cline**

#### ***Looking for Alaska***

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers.

**John Green**

#### ***The First Part Last***

Brief, poetic, and absolutely riveting, this gem of a novel tells the story of a young father struggling to raise an infant. Bobby, 16, is a sensitive and intelligent narrator. His parents are supportive but refuse to take over the child-care duties, so he struggles to balance parenting, school, and friends who don't comprehend his new role. Alternate chapters go back to the story of Bobby's relationship with his girlfriend Nia and how parents and friends reacted to the news of her pregnancy.

**Angela Johnson**

#### ***Sold***

Lakshmi, though poor, enjoys her life until the Himalayan monsoons wash away her family's crops and she is sold to a brothel in India by her stepfather. She remembers her mother's wisdom, "Simply to endure is to triumph" until the day comes that she can reclaim her life.

**Patricia McCormick**

#### ***The Book Thief***

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel- a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

**Markus Zusak**

## NONFICTION

### ***Bottom of the 33rd***

**Dan Barry**

“New York Times columnist Barry provides a charming, meditative portrait of a minor league baseball game that seemed to last forever. Because of a rule-book glitch, the Pawtucket Red Sox and the Rochester Red Wings played for 33 innings on a chilly Saturday night into the Easter morning of 1981. Using the game as a focal point, Barry examines the lives and future careers of many of the players, including the then unknown Wade Boggs and Cal Ripken. Barry also profiles the Red Sox team owner, the fans and workers, and even the stadium and the depressed industrial town of Pawtucket, R.I. The game gives Barry ample opportunity to explore the world that surrounds it. Not every Triple-A player becomes a Cal Ripken, and Barry gives generous attention to those who didn't make it—the powerful outfielder who can't hit a curve, the eccentric Dutch relief pitcher with the unlikely name of Win Remmerswaal, the 26-year-old who feels like an old man among younger prospects. The three decades that have passed since the game allow Barry to track the arc of entire lives, adding emotional resonance. Barry is equally adept at describing the allure of a ballpark and the boost it can give to a struggling town like Pawtucket.” (Amazon.com)

### ***Bossypants***

**Tina Fey**

Bossypants is a funny autobiography written by Tina Fey. This book may make you laugh out loud. Recently, Fey won the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

### ***Hole in My Life***

**Jack Gantos**

A gaping hole of misery is what popular young adult author Jack Gantos remembers when he thinks back to 1972, "the bleakest year of my life." Just 20 years old, Gantos was in a medium security prison for his participation in a get-rich-quick drug scam. Scared silly by the violence he saw around him daily, Gantos's only lifeline was a battered copy of *The Brothers Karamazov*, which he painstakingly turned into an impromptu journal by scratching his own thoughts into the tiny spaces between the lines. There, he recorded both his fears and his dream of someday writing a book of his own. It was during his time behind bars that he found himself growing into a focused, diligent writer who eschewed drugs for the bigger high of watching his words fill the hole once and for all.

### ***Lies My Teacher Told Me***

**James Loewen**

Americans have lost touch with their history and in *Lies My Teacher Told Me* Professor James Loewen shows why. Marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies, history textbooks omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and drama from our past.

### ***So You've Been Publicly Shamed***

**Jon Ronson**

“*So You've Been Publicly Shamed* is Ronson's tour through a not-necessarily-brave new world where faceless commenters wield the power to destroy lives and careers, where the punishments often outweigh the crimes, and where there is no self-control and (ironically) no consequences. On one hand, part of what makes this book (again, ironically) so fun to read is a certain *schadenfreude*; it's fun to read about others' misfortunes, especially if we think they "had it coming." Jonah Lehrer, whose admitted plagiarism and falsifications probably earned him his fall, stalks these pages. But so does Justine Sacco, whose ill-conceived tweet probably didn't merit hers; as it turns out, the internet doesn't always differentiate the misdemeanors from the felonies. But the best reason to read this is Ronson's style, which is funny and brisk, yet informative and never condescending. *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* is not a scholarly book, nor is it a workbook about navigating ignominy. It's an entertaining investigation into a growing--and often disturbing--demimonde of uncharitable impulses run amok.” (Amazon.com)

### ***Persepolis***

**Marjane Satrapi**

“Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi's memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.” (Amazon.com)



## Haverhill Public Schools

My signature below indicates that I have received the Summer Reading list and that I understand the expectations of reading two books, one from the fiction list and one from the non-fiction list, and that I must be prepared for a related, follow-up assignment, by the return to school on August 29, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student

Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Name