



June 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students Entering Grade 12,

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 12 SUMMER READING LIST 2017

The list below contains summer reading selections for students entering Grade 12 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

#### ***How it Went Down***

**Kekia Magoon**

When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson dies from two gunshot wounds, his community is thrown into an uproar. Tariq was black. The shooter, Jack Franklin, is white. In the aftermath of Tariq's death, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events line up. Day by day, new twists further obscure the truth. Tariq's friends, family, and community struggle to make sense of the tragedy, and to cope with the hole left behind when a life is cut short. In their own words, they grapple for a way to say with certainty: This is how it went down.

#### ***We Were Liars***

**E. Lockhart**

A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth. *We Were Liars* is a modern, sophisticated suspense novel from New York Times bestselling author, National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honoree E. Lockhart. Read it. And if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE.

#### ***Ask the Passengers***

**A.S. King**

Astrid Jones desperately wants to confide in someone, but her mother's pushiness and her father's lack of interest tell her they're the last people she can trust. Instead, Astrid spends hours lying on the backyard picnic table watching airplanes fly overhead. She doesn't know the passengers inside, but they're the only people who won't judge her when she asks them her most personal questions--like what it means that she's falling in love with a girl. As her secret relationship becomes more intense and her friends demand answers, Astrid has nowhere left to turn. She can't share the truth with anyone except the people at thirty thousand feet, and they don't even know she's there. But little does Astrid know just how much even the tiniest connection will affect these strangers' lives--and her own--for the better. In this truly original portrayal of a girl struggling to break free of society's definitions, Printz Honor author A.S. King asks readers to question everything--and offers hope to those who will never stop seeking real love.

#### ***Story of a Girl***

**Sara Zarr**

When she is caught in the backseat of a car with her older brother's best friend—Deanna Lambert's teenage life is changed forever. Struggling to overcome the lasting repercussions and the stifling role of "school slut," she longs to escape a life defined by her past. With subtle grace, complicated wisdom and striking emotion, *Story of a Girl* reminds us of our human capacity for resilience, epiphany and redemption.

#### ***Uglies***

**Scott**

#### **Westerfeld**

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. In just a few weeks she'll have the operation that will turn her from a repellent ugly into a stunning pretty. And as a pretty, she'll be catapulted into a high-tech paradise where her only job is to have fun. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to become a pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world-- and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally a choice: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. Tally's choice will change her world forever...

#### ***The Thing Around Your Neck***

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Searing and profound, suffused with beauty, sorrow, and longing, these stories map, with Adichie's signature emotional wisdom, the collision of two cultures and the deeply human struggle to reconcile them. *The Thing Around Your Neck* is a resounding confirmation of the prodigious literary powers of one of our most essential writers.

#### ***The Martian***

**Andy Weir**

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate the planet while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded on Mars' surface, completely alone, with no way to signal Earth that he's alive. And even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone years before a rescue could arrive. Chances are, though, Mark won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first.

But Mark's not ready to quit. Armed with nothing but his ingenuity and his engineering skills—and a gallows sense of humor that proves to be his greatest source of strength—he embarks on a dogged quest to stay alive, using his botany expertise to grow food and even hatching a mad plan to contact NASA back on Earth. As he overcomes one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next, Mark begins to let himself believe he might make it off the planet alive. But Mars has plenty of surprises in store for him yet.

## NONFICTION

### ***Unbroken***

**Laura Hillenbrand**

The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

### ***Why Not Me***

**Mindy Kaling**

In *Why Not Me?*, Kaling shares her ongoing journey to find contentment and excitement in her adult life, whether it's falling in love at work, seeking new friendships in lonely places, attempting to be the first person in history to lose weight without any behavior modification whatsoever, or most important, believing that you have a place in Hollywood when you're constantly reminded that no one looks like you.

### ***Hillbilly Elegy***

**JD Vance**

From a former Marine and Yale Law School Graduate, a poignant account of growing up in a poor Appalachian town, that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. Part memoir, part historical and social analysis, J. D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy* is a fascinating consideration of class, culture, and the American dream. Vance's grandparents were "dirt poor and in love." They got married and moved north from Kentucky to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. Their grandchild (the author) graduated from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving upward mobility for their family. But Vance cautions that is only the short version. The slightly longer version is that his grandparents, aunt, uncle, and mother struggled to varying degrees with the demands of their new middle class life and they, and Vance himself, still carry around the demons of their chaotic family history.

### ***Boys Among Men***

**Jonathan Abrams**

When Kevin Garnett shocked the world by announcing that he would not be attending college—as young basketball prodigies were expected to do—but instead enter the 1995 NBA draft directly from high school, he blazed a trail for a generation of teenage basketball players to head straight for the pros. That trend would continue until the NBA instituted an age limit in 2005, requiring all players to attend college or another developmental program for at least one year. Over that decade-plus period, the list of players who made that difficult leap includes some of the most celebrated players of the modern era—Garnett, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Dwight Howard, Tracy McGrady, and numerous other stars. It also

includes notable “busts” who either physically or mentally proved unable to handle the transition. But for better or for worse, the face of the NBA was forever changed by the prep-to-pro generation.

***March: Book One***

**John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell**

Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper’s farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president. *March* is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis’ lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis’ personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Book One spans John Lewis’ youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.

***In the Country We Love: My Family Divided***

**Diane Guerrero, Michelle Burford**

Diane Guerrero, the television actress from the megahit *Orange is the New Black* and *Jane the Virgin*, was just fourteen years old on the day her parents and brother were arrested and deported while she was at school. Born in the U.S., Guerrero was able to remain in the country and continue her education, depending on the kindness of family friends who took her in and helped her build a life and a successful acting career for herself, without the support system of her family. *In the Country We Love* is a moving, heartbreaking story of one woman's extraordinary resilience in the face of the nightmarish struggles of undocumented residents in this country. There are over 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the US, many of whom have citizen children, whose lives here are just as precarious, and whose stories haven't been told. Written with Michelle Burford, this memoir is a tale of personal triumph that also casts a much-needed light on the fears that haunt the daily existence of families like the author's and on a system that fails them over and over.



## 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