

Lawrence School Summer Reading List 2010
Grade 8

Purpose: The summer reading program supports our conviction that a student's vocabulary and power of expression improve with reading. The school librarian, along with the English department, is providing this book list which is continually reviewed and updated to provide appropriate reading and to stimulate interest in reading for all students.

Reading and Writing Requirement: All 8th graders must read **ONE** book from the **Summer Reading List** and complete the **Summer Reading Response**. Your English teacher will collect this response during the first week in September; it will represent a portion of your first quarter grade.

Advanced English students should read a **SECOND** book (your choice), take notes as you read, and be prepared to discuss the book orally during the first week in September.

This **Summer Reading List** and **Response** outline are also available online at the Lawrence School Library site (www.falmouth.k12.ma.us/index.php/our-schools/lawrence/lawlibrary).

Bold Print = Recommended author from MA Curriculum Frameworks

Avi. The Man who was Poe. 1989.

This suspenseful story, set in Providence, RI, in 1848, combines mystery with historical fiction. Eleven-year-old Edmund's family has disappeared, and he is being followed by a stranger, whom Edmund agrees to help in exchange for clues about his family's whereabouts.

Bauer, Joan. Peeled. 2008.

In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.

Christie, Agatha. And Then There Were None. 1939.

This is a story of ten strangers who were lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. When the trapped guests are murdered, one by one, the host accuses each person of murder.

Colfer, Eoin. Airman. 2008.

In the 1890's on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls, including one for the glider with which he dreams of escape.

Collins, Suzanne. The Hunger Games. 2008.

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

Collins, Suzanne. Catching fire. 2009.

By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion.

Cooney, Caroline B. Code Orange. 2005.

While conducting research for a high school biology report, a teenage boy unwittingly puts himself and others in danger.

Cormier, Robert. I am the Cheese. 1977.

This is a suspenseful and horrifying tale of government corruption and espionage told by fourteen-year-old Adam Farmer, whose life is turned upside down when he discovers that his whole life has been a lie.

Dessen, Sarah. Along for the ride: a novel. 2009.

Auden gets a chance to recapture the carefree teen life she missed while her parents were going through a divorce when she goes to spend the summer with her dad and his new family in a charming beach town and meets fellow insomniac Eli, an intriguing loner fighting demons of his own.

Farmer, Nancy. The House of the Scorpion. 2002.

The futuristic story of a 14 year-old boy who discovers that he is the clone of the 140-year-old leader of the corrupt drug empire, Opium, located between the U.S. and Mexico.

Fleming, Candice. The great and only Barnum: the tremendous, stupendous life of showman P.T. Barnum. 2009

Chronicles the life of showman P. T. Barnum, discussing how he created his legendary circus, the people and events that shaped his life, and the impact Barnum had on the entertainment industry.

Freedman, Russell. Washington at Valley Forge. 2008.

Provides an account of the six months during which the soldiers endured the harsh winter of 1777-78 without adequate food, clothing, or blankets.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Uprising. 2007.

In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike and the fire that took the lives of her two best friends.

Howe, James. The Misfits. 2001.

Overweight Bobby, tall Addie, scruffy Skeezie, and effeminate Joe are self-described misfits dealing with middle school crushes (both straight and gay), teacher-student conflicts, and everyday concerns. All four run for office in the 7th grade school elections, with a platform protesting name-calling.

Johnston, Tony. Bone by bone by bone. 2007.

In 1950's Tennessee, ten-year-old David's racist father refuses to let him associate with his best friend Malcolm, and African American boy.

Levine, Ellen. Rachel Carson: a twentieth-century life. 2007.

Examines the life and career of marine biologist Rachel Carson; discussing her childhood, education, research, publications, personal life, and fight against cancer.

Lockhart, E. The disreputable history of Frankie Landau-Banks: a novel. 2008.

Frankie attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

London, Jack. The call of the wild. 1903.

Buck, who is half St. Bernard and half Scotch shepherd, is abducted and taken to the Klondike where he reverts to the wild and becomes a leader of a pack of wolves.

London, Jack. White Fang. 1905.

Follows the adventures of a dog who is part wolf as he eventually makes his peace with man in the wilderness of northern Canada.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. Dairy Queen: a novel. 2006.

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. The Off Season. 2008.

Sequel to: Dairy queen. High school junior D. J. Schwenk staggers under the weight of caring for her badly injured brother, her responsibilities on the dairy farm, a changing relationship with her friend Brian, and her own athletic aspirations.

Myers, Walter Dean. Scorpions. 1988.

Twelve-year-old Jamal's life changes dramatically when his older brother is sent to jail for murder. He is pressured into taking over the gang, the Scorpions, and has to deal with guns, drugs, and survival in the city streets.

Myers, Walter Dean. Slam! 1996.

Filled with intense sports action and street language from the "hood", this is the story of sixteen-year-old Slam, who has recently transferred to a new school, and his dealing with life issues on and off the basketball court.

Myers, Walter Dean. Sunrise over Fallujah. 2008.

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. Habibi. 1997.

This is a poetic and autobiographical story of fourteen-year-old Liyana, whose life in St. Louis is disrupted when her father announces that he is moving the family to his native country, Palestine. There she is immersed in her family's Arab heritage while she embarks upon a forbidden romance with a Jewish boy and faces danger when she gets caught up in the struggle between the Palestinians and the Jews.

Schmidt, Gary. Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster boy. 2004.

Set in 1912, this is the story of a lonely 13-year-old boy who moves to Maine, befriends an African-American girl, and faces prejudice from his father and the town elders as he tries to help his new friend save her island community of freed slaves.

Smith, Roland. Peak. 2007.

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Smith, Sherri. Flygirl. 2008.

During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Smith, Betty. A tree grows in Brooklyn. 1943.

A moving story about a girl who learns to cope with disappointment while growing up in the slums of New York in the early twentieth century.

Wells, Rosemary. Red Moon at Sharpsburg. 2007.

Even though the odds are against her and the Civil War has ruined her home and given her a view of the darker side of humanity, thirteen-year-old India Moody continues to aspire to become a scientist and attend Oberlin College.