

# *Sandalwood High School Summer Reading*

Please be advised that the books listed are chosen for high school students in grades nine through twelve. In order to engage their interest and to provide and spur critical thinking certain book selections include sensitive and intricate issues. The content of some of the titles may be mature and contain adult language and situations. Books are arranged in order of lexile level.

## Summer Reading List for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

Title, Author, Lexile Level	Summary
<b><i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas 590L</b>	Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline.. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does or does not say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life. Summary retrieved from <a href="https://goodreads.com">https://goodreads.com</a>
<b><i>Article 5</i> by Kristen Simmons 660L</b>	New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., have been abandoned. The Bill of Rights has been revoked, and replaced with the Moral Statutes. There are no more police—instead, there are soldiers. There are no more fines for bad behavior—instead, there are arrests, trials, and maybe worse. People who get arrested usually don't come back. Seventeen-year-old Ember Miller is old enough to remember that things weren't always this way. Living with her rebellious single mother, it's hard for her to forget that people weren't always arrested for reading the wrong books or staying out after dark. It's hard to forget that life in the United States used to be different. Ember has perfected the art of keeping a low profile. She knows how to get the things she needs, like food stamps and hand-me-down clothes, and how to pass the random home inspections by the military. Her life is as close to peaceful as circumstances allow. That is, until her mother is arrested for noncompliance with Article 5 of the Moral Statutes. And one of the arresting officers is none other than Chase Jennings—the only boy Ember has ever loved. Summary retrieved from <a href="https://goodreads.com">https://goodreads.com</a>
<b><i>Rootless</i> by Chris Howard 690L</b>	A dystopian eco-mystery. Banyan constructs trees out of old pieces of metal and sells them to rich people who yearn for the forests that no longer exist. A meeting with a stranger, who has a map showing the location of the last trees on earth, provokes Banyan to start a long and dangerous quest. Adventures, dangers, and revelations abound. Summary retrieved from <a href="https://goodreads.com">https://goodreads.com</a>
<b><i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Myers 670L</b>	Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout. Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system." For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life. As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script.. But despite his efforts, reality is blurred and his vision obscured until he can no longer tell who he is or what is the truth. Summary retrieved from <a href="https://goodreads.com">https://goodreads.com</a>
<b><i>The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave</i> by Rick Yancey 690L</b>	After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one. Now, it's the dawn of the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Who have scattered Earth's last survivors. To stay alone is to stay alive, Cassie believes, until she meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan Walker may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother-or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose between trust and despair, between defiance and surrender, between life and death. To give up or to get up. Summary retrieved from: <a href="https://goodreads.com">https://goodreads.com</a>
<b><i>Never Fall Down</i></b>	Arn is just a boy when soldiers force the entire population of Cambodia into the countryside. Away from his family in a labor camp, he experiences things that no child should ever see. Saved from dying through exhaustion by claiming to be a musician, Ahn finds himself in the Killing Fields. This

<p><b>Patricia McCormick</b> <b>710L-9th</b></p>	<p>National Book Award nominee from two-time finalist Patricia McCormick is the unforgettable story of Arn Chorn-Pond, who defied the odds to survive the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979 and the labor camps of the Khmer Rouge. Based on the true story of Cambodian advocate Arn Chorn-Pond, and authentically told from his point of view as a young boy, this is an achingly raw and powerful historical novel about a child of war who becomes a man of peace. Summary retrieved from: <a href="https://goodreads.com">https://goodreads.com</a></p>
<p><b>Hoops</b> <b>by Walter Dean Myers</b> <b>740L-9th</b></p>	<p>All eyes are on seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson while he practices with his team for a city-wide basketball Tournament of Champions. His coach, Cal, knows Lonnie has what it takes to be a pro-basketball player, but warns him about giving in to the pressure. Cal knows because he, too, once had the chance--but sold out. As the Tournament nears, Lonnie learns that some heavy bettors want Cal to keep him on the bench so that the team will lose the championship. As the last seconds of the game tick away Lonnie and Cal must make a decision. Are they willing to blow the chance of a lifetime? Summary retrieved from: <a href="https://fab.lexile.com/book/details/9780307976116/">https://fab.lexile.com/book/details/9780307976116/</a></p>
<p><b>Esperanza Rising</b> <b>by Pam Munzo Ryan</b> <b>750L-9th</b></p>	<p>Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances. Summary retrieved from <a href="https://goodreads.com">https://goodreads.com</a></p>
<p><b>Maze Runner</b> <b>by James Dashner</b> <b>770L-10th</b></p>	<p>When Thomas wakes up, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade, a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they got to the Glade. Summary retrieved from: <a href="https://fab.lexile.com/book/details/9780375982910/">https://fab.lexile.com/book/details/9780375982910/</a></p>
<p><b>The Truth About Forever</b> <b>by Sarah Dessen</b> <b>770L-10th</b></p>	<p>Sarah Dessen delivers a page-turning novel that carries readers on a roller coaster of denial, grief, comfort, and love as we watch a broken but resilient girl pick up the pieces of her life and fit them back together. Summary retrieved from: <a href="https://fab.lexile.com/book/details/9781429529822/">https://fab.lexile.com/book/details/9781429529822/</a></p>
<p><b>Lord of the Flies</b> <b>by William Golding</b> <b>770L-10th</b></p>	<p>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. Labeled a parable, an allegory, a myth, a morality tale, a parody, a political treatise, even a vision of the apocalypse, Lord of the Flies is perhaps our most memorable novel about “the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart.” Summary retrieved from: <a href="http://www.goodreads.com">http://www.goodreads.com</a></p>
<p><b>Cinder: The Lunar Chronicles</b> <b>by Marissa Meyer</b> <b>790L-10th</b></p>	<p>A forbidden romance. A deadly plague. Earth's fate hinges on one girl . . . CINDER, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. Cinder is caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal. Now she must uncover secrets about her mysterious past in order to protect Earth's future. Summary retrieved from: <a href="http://www.goodreads.com">http://www.goodreads.com</a></p>
<p><b>The House on Mango Street</b> <b>by Sandra Cisneros</b> <b>870L-10th</b></p>	<p>Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, The House on Mango Street is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero. Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous—it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers. Summary retrieved from: <a href="https://www.goodreads.com">https://www.goodreads.com</a></p>
<p><b>The Other Wes Moore Boy by</b> <b>Wes Moore- 11th</b> <b>900L</b></p>	<p>This book illustrates how two young men with the same name from the same city and raised with similar life experiences would make <b>different</b> life choices that resulted in drastically <b>different</b> outcomes. One <b>Wes Moore</b> is a graduate of Johns Hopkins, Rhodes scholar, White House Fellow and successful business person.</p>
<p><b>Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste</b></p>	<p>Little Fires Everywhere is the latest novel from bestselling author, Celeste Ng. Set in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Little Fires Everywhere tells the</p>

<p><b>Ng- 11th</b> <b>*1000L</b></p>	<p>story of Elena Richardson, a woman who thrives on structure and rules, and her family. When Mia Warren, an artist who has been living a nomadic lifestyle as a single mother with her daughter, Pearl, arrives in town, it threatens everything that Mrs. Richardson has known. Slowly, Mia becomes the enemy of Mrs. Richardson. Meanwhile, in another part of town, close friends of the Richardsons have adopted a Chinese-American baby, which results in a custody battle. When a fire breaks out in the Richardson home, the town is buzzing with their ideas on who the suspect is.</p>
<p><b>A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry- 11th</b> <b>970L</b></p>	<p>Set on Chicago's South Side, the plot revolves around the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis and matriarch Lena, called Mama. When her deceased husband's insurance money comes through, Mama dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in Chicago. Walter Lee, a chauffeur, has other plans, however: buying a liquor store and being his own man. Beneatha dreams of medical school.</p>
<p><b>On the Road by Jack Kerouac</b> <b>1040L- 12th</b></p>	<p>Inspired by Jack Kerouac's adventures with Neal Cassady, <i>On the Road</i> tells the story of two friends whose cross-country road trips are a quest for meaning and true experience. Written with a mixture of sad-eyed naiveté and wild ambition and imbued with Kerouac's love of America, his compassion for humanity, and his sense of language as jazz, <i>On the Road</i> is the quintessential American vision of freedom and hope, a book that changed American literature and changed anyone who has ever picked it up.</p>
<p><b>How to Read Literature like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster</b> <b>12th</b></p>	<p>While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. <i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader, the college professor.</p> <p>What does it mean when a literary hero is traveling along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower?</p> <p>Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices and form, Thomas C. Foster provides us with a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.</p>
<p><b>The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Moshin Hamid- 12<sup>th</sup></b> <b>1100L</b></p>	<p>At a café table in Lahore, a bearded Pakistani man converses with an uneasy American stranger. As dusk deepens to night, he begins the tale that has brought them to this fateful encounter . . .</p> <p>Changez is living an immigrant's dream of America. At the top of his class at Princeton, he is snapped up by an elite valuation firm. He thrives on the energy of New York, and his budding romance with elegant, beautiful Erica promises entry into Manhattan society at the same exalted level once occupied by his own family back in Lahore. But in the wake of September 11, Changez finds his position in his adopted city suddenly overturned, and his relationship with Erica shifting. And Changez's own identity is in seismic shift as well, unearthing allegiances more fundamental than money, power, and maybe even love.</p>

**All books in this list are available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and the Jacksonville Public Library. Many are available in e-book format. Many are available in used format from Chamblin's Book Mine and other used bookstores in the Jacksonville area. \*Many books can be found in varying lexile levels.**