



Prince William County Public Schools
Summer Reading Recommendation
Suggested Reading List
Grades 9-12

The purpose of the Prince William County Public Schools Summer Reading Recommendation is for students to enjoy quality literature and to continue developing their independent reading skills to support critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship. Student participation in the challenge is voluntary. Students who choose to participate will read books they self-select. Students that read during the summer can grow and explore new experiences to support life-long reading habits.

The following titles are suggestions to help foster a love of reading for pleasure. Other books selected by the student with guidance from a parent, guardian, or librarian, are also acceptable.

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9th Grade

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Annotation
Alcott, Louisa May	<i>Little Women</i> or any title by Lousia May Alcott Book	2014	With their father away at war and little money to spare, the March sisters often can't help but escape into their imaginations. Meg dreams of romance, Jo wants to be a writer, Beth wishes for a piano and Amy longs to be a refined lady. The girls are facing the first great loves and losses of their lives. But while their hopes and challenges are all very different, their source of comfort is the same: the knowledge that their own burdens will not seem half so great if they help others with theirs.
Burgan, Michael	<i>Kenya</i> or any book by Michael Burgan	2015	Discusses the history, geography, and people of Kenya as well as the country's rich culture and traditions and its beautiful natural areas.
Cabot, Meg	<i>All American Girl</i> or any title by Meg Cabot	2008	A sophomore girl stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed Teen Ambassador to the United Nations, and catches the eye of the very cute First Son.
Card, Orson Scott	<i>Pathfinder</i> or any book by Orson Scott Card	2013	Thirteen-year-old Rigg has a secret ability to see the paths of others' pasts, but revelations after his father's death set him on a dangerous quest that brings new threats from those who would either control his destiny or kill him.
Cass, Kiera	<i>The Elite</i> or any book by Kiera Cass	2013	"Sixteen-year-old America Singer is one of only six girls still competing in the Selection--but before she can fight to win Prince Maxon and the Illean crown, she must decide where her own heart truly lies"-- Provided by publisher.
Clare, Cassandra	<i>Lady Midnight</i> or any book by Cassandra Clare	2016	It's been five years since the events of City of Heavenly Fire that brought the Shadowhunters to the brink of oblivion. Emma Carstairs is no longer a child in mourning, but a young woman bent on discovering what killed her parents and avenging her losses. Together with her parabatai Julian Blackthorn, Emma must learn to trust her head and her heart as she investigates a demonic plot that stretches across Los Angeles, from the Sunset Strip to the enchanted sea that pounds the beaches of Santa Monica.
Condie, Allyson	<i>Matched</i> or any book by Allyson Condie	2010	All her life, Cassia has never had a choice. The Society dictates everything: when and how to play, where to work, where to live, what to eat and wear, when to die, and most importantly to Cassia as she turns 17, who to marry. When she is Matched with her best friend Xander, things couldn't be more perfect. But why did her neighbor Ky's face show up on her match disk as well?
Dashner, James	<i>The Eye of the Minds</i> or any book by James Dashner	2014	"Michael is a skilled internet gamer in a world of advanced technology. When a cyber-terrorist begins to threaten players, Michael is called upon to seek him and his secret's out"-- Provided by publisher.
Lupica, Mike	<i>Fast Break</i> or any book by Mike Lupica	2015	Since his mother's death, Jayson, twelve, has focused on basketball and surviving but he is found out and placed with an affluent foster family of a different race, and must learn to accept many changes, including facing his former teammates in a championship game.

Park, Linda Sue	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i> or any title by Linda Sue Park	2010	When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.
Pierce, Tamora	<i>Trickster's Choice</i> or any title by Tamora Pierce	2012	Alianne must call forth her mother's courage and her father's wit in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy.
Yang, Gene	<i>American Born Chinese</i> or any book by Gene Yang	2006	Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in comic book format.

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10th Grade

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Annotation
Carter, Ally	<i>Heist Society</i> or any title by Ally Carter	2010	A group of teenagers uses its combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save fifteen-year-old Kat Bishop's father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector.
Dessen, Sarah	<i>Lock and Key</i> or any title by Sarah Dessen	2008	When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she too has something to offer others.
Draper, Sharon	<i>The Battle of Jericho</i> or any title by Sharon Draper	2003	Sixteen-year-old high school junior Jericho and his cousin are invited to pledge an exclusive school club. As the initiation becomes increasingly humiliating, Jericho has to decide if membership is worth what he has to go through to join this "reputable" club.
Feinstein, John	<i>Foul Trouble</i> or any title by John Feinstein	2013	College recruiters are clamoring to sign up Terrell Jamerson, the #1 high school basketball player in the country but not all of these recruiters are straight shooters, and Terrell will have to think fast if he wants to stay in the game-- Provided by publisher.
Higson, Charles	<i>The Enemy</i> or any title by Charles Higson	2009	After a disease turns everyone over sixteen into brainless, decomposing, flesh-eating creatures, a group of teenagers leave its shelter and sets out on a harrowing journey across London to the safe haven of Buckingham Palace.
Myers, Walter Dean	<i>Monster</i> or any title by Walter Dean Myers	1999	While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.
Oppel, Kenneth	<i>This Dark Endeavor</i> or any title by Kenneth Oppel	2011	When his twin brother falls ill in the family's chateau in the independent republic of Geneva in the eighteenth century, sixteen-year-old Victor Frankenstein embarks on a dangerous and uncertain quest to create the forbidden Elixir of Life described in an ancient text in the family's secret Biblioteka Obscura.
Sepetys, Ruta	<i>Salt to the Sea</i> or any title by Ruta Sepetys	2016	World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia, and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom. When their paths converge in route to the ship that promises salvation, Joana, Emilia, and Florian find their strength, courage, and trust in one another tested with each step closer toward safety. When tragedy strikes the Wilhelm Gustloff, they must fight for the same thing: survival.

Skloot, Rebecca	<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> or any title by Rebecca Skloot	2010	This book documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping.
Spiegelman, Art	<i>Maus I: A Survivor's Tale, My Father Bleeds History</i> or any title by Art Spiegelman	1986	This first volume of Art Spiegelman's <i>Maus</i> introduces readers to Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist trying to come to terms with his father, his father's terrifying story, and history itself. In this graphic novel, the Nazis are cats, the Jews are mice. <i>Maus</i> ties together two powerful stories: Vladek's harrowing tale of survival against all odds and the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father. At every level this is the ultimate survivor's tale.
Steifvater, Maggie	<i>Shiver</i> or any title by Maggie Steifvater	2009	In all the years she has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house, Grace has been particularly drawn to an unusual yellow-eyed wolf who, in his turn, has been watching her with increasing intensity.
Wein, Elizabeth	<i>Black Dove, White Raven</i> or any title by Elizabeth Wein	2015	Having moved to Ethiopia to avoid the prejudices of 1930s America, Emilia Menotti, her black adoptive brother Teo, and their mother Rhoda, a stunt pilot, are devoted to their new country even after war with Italy looms, drawing the teens into the conflict.

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11th Grade

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Annotation
Anderson, Laurie Halse	<i>Wintergirls</i> or any other title by Laurie Halse Anderson	2009	Lia and Cassie are best friends, wintergirls frozen in matchstick bodies, competitors in a deadly contest to see who can be the skinniest. But what comes after size zero and size double-zero? When Cassie succumbs to the demons within, Lia feels she is being haunted by her friend's restless spirit.
Aveyard, Victoria	<i>Red Queen</i> or any other title by Victoria Aveyard	2015	In a world divided by blood--those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities--seventeen-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. But Mare risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard --a growing Red rebellion--even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction.
Bardugo, Leigh	<i>Six of Crows</i> or any other title by Leigh Bardugo	2015	Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction--if they don't kill each other first.
de la Pena, Matt	<i>The Living</i> or any other title by Matt de la Pena	2013	After an earthquake destroys California and a tsunami wrecks the luxury cruise ship where he is a summer employee, high schooler Shy confronts another deadly surprise.
Divine, L.	Drama High Series	2006-2016	After a summer of bliss with boyfriend KJ, Jayd Jackson returns to South Bay High (aka Drama High) to discover that she's been dumped, her former best friend is out to get her and KJ's new girl is looking to knock her out. With drama at an all-time high, Jayd, with a little help from Mama and her mystical bag of tricks, is about to get some lessons in who's got her back - and, more importantly, when she's got to watch it.
Farrish, Terri	<i>The Good Braider</i> or any other title by Terri Farrish	2012	Follows Viola as she survives brutality in war-torn Sudan, makes a perilous journey, lives as a refugee in Egypt, and finally reaches Portland, Maine, where her quest for freedom and security is hampered by memories of past horrors and the traditions her mother and other Sudanese adults hold dear. Includes historical facts and a map of Sudan.
Gaiman, Neil	<i>How to Talk to Girls at Parties</i> or any other title by Neil Gaiman	2016	Enn is a fifteen-year-old boy who just doesn't understand girls, while his friend Vic seems to have them all figured out. Both teenagers are in for the shock of their young lives, however, when they crash a local party only to discover that the girls there are far, far more than they appear!

Godbersen, Anna	<i>The Luxe</i> or any other title by Anna Godbersen	2007	In Manhattan in 1899, five teens of different social classes lead dangerously scandalous lives, despite the strict rules of society and the best-laid plans of parents and others.
Green, John	<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> or any other title by John Green	2012	Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.
Klavan, Andrew	<i>The Homelanders</i> or any other title by Andrew Klavan	2009	High school student Charlie West awakens bloody and bruised in a concrete bunker, only to discover that he has lost a year of his life and remembers nothing about escaping from prison after being convicted of murdering his former best friend, or why he is being pursued by both the law and a group of terrorists trying to bring down the government of the United States.
Lewis, John	<i>March</i> or any other title by John Lewis	2013	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.
Robins, Eleanor	Carter High Chronicles	2003-2010	Carter High's student body is one of a diverse group of teens from a variety of backgrounds. Each softcover book in this series features a character embroiled in a typical high school dilemma. Topics are involving and pertinent to young adult readers: romance, sports, friendships, exams, work, family. In just 48-pages, even your least motivated readers can easily finish these novels.
Schraff, Anne	Urban Underground Series	2010-2013	Sereeta Prince is a honey-skinned beauty with glossy, black curls making little halos around her face. Jaris Spain has been in love with her since junior high. Now his feelings are growing even stronger. But she seems to look right through him like he is made of plastic wrap.
Suskind, Ron	<i>Life, Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism</i> or any other title by Ron Suskind	2014	What if you were trapped in a Disney movie? In all of them, actually - from Dumbo to Peter Pan to The Lion King -- and had to learn about life and love mostly from what could be gleaned from animated characters, dancing across a screen of color? Asking this question opens a doorway to the most extraordinary of stories. It is the saga of Owen Suskind, who happens to be the son of one of America's most noted writers, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Ron Suskind. He's also autistic. The twisting, 20-year journey of this boy and his family will change that way you see autism, old Disney movies, and the power of imagination to heal a shattered, upside-down world.
Various	Bluford High Series	2001-2015	The first book in the Bluford Series, centers on the life of Bluford sophomore Darcy Wills. Darcy contends with the return of her long-absent father, the troubling behavior of her younger sister Jamee, and the beginning of her first relationship.

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12th Grade

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Baldacci, David	<i>The Innocent</i> or any title by David Baldacci	2012	Will Robie, a freelance hitman working for the government, rescues a teenage girl whose parents' disappearance may be linked to a vast, high-level cover-up.
Childs, Lee	<i>Killing Floor</i> or any title by Lee Childs	2006	When Jack Reacher suddenly decides to ask a Greyhound bus driver to let him off near the town of Margrave, Georgia, he thinks it's because his brother once mentioned that the famed blues guitarist Blind Blake died there. But it doesn't take long for the footloose ex-military policeman to discover that there are plenty of strange--and very dangerous--things going on behind Margrave's manicured lawns and clean streets that demand his attention.
Follett, Ken	<i>Eye of the Needle</i> or any title by Ken Follett	2005	One enemy spy, a ruthless assassin, knows the secret to the Allies' greatest deception, code name: "The Needle" he holds the key to ultimate Nazi victory. Only one person stands in his way: a lonely Englishwoman on an isolated island, who is beginning to love the killer who has mysteriously entered her life. All comes to a terrifying conclusion in this unsurpassed and unforgettable masterwork of suspense, intrigue, and the dangerous machinations of the human heart.
Griffin, W.E.B.	<i>Semper Fi</i> or any title by WEB Griffin	1986	From Shanghai to Wake Island, the Corps was America's first line of defense as the winds of war exploded into the devastating surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Now, the bestselling author of the acclaimed BROTHERHOOD OF WAR saga brings to life the men of the Marine Corps--their loves and their loyalties--as they steeled themselves for battle, and prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice...
Grisham, John	<i>The Firm</i> or any title by John Grisham	1999	Mitch McDeere, a Harvard Law graduate, becomes suspicious of his Memphis tax firm when mysterious deaths, obsessive office security, and the Chicago mob figure into its operations.
Hale, Nathan	<i>Hazardous Tales</i> or any title by Nathan Hale	2012	Nathan Hale, America's first spy, a Revolutionary War hero, famously said "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" before being hanged by the British. In the Hazardous Tales series, Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history's roughest, toughest, craziest stories in graphic novel format.
Hoesseini, Khaled	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> or any title by Khaled Hoesseini	2007	Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in war torn Kabul, losses incurred over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage.
Koontz, Dean	<i>Lightning</i> or any title by Dean Koontz	2003	A storm struck the night Laura Shane was born with a strangeness about the weather that people would remember for years. More mysterious was the blond-haired stranger appearing out of nowhere saving Laura from a fatal delivery. Years later another bolt of lightning and the stranger returned, again saving Laura

			from tragedy. Was he a guardian angel, the devil in disguise, or the master of a haunting destiny beyond time and space?
Krakauer, John	<i>Into Thin Air</i> or any title by Jon Krakauer	1999	When Jon Krakauer reached the summit of Mt. Everest May 10, 1996, he hadn't slept in fifty-seven hours and was reeling from the brain-altering effects of oxygen depletion. As he began the dangerous descent from 29,028 feet, twenty other climbers were still pushing doggedly toward the top. No one noticing that the sky had filled with clouds. Six hours later and 3,000 feet lower, in 70-knot winds and blinding snow, Krakauer collapsed in his tent, freezing, hallucinating from exhaustion and hypoxia, but safe. The following morning, he learned six of his fellow climbers hadn't made it back to their camp.
Magoon, Kekla	<i>X: A Novel</i> or any title by Kekla Magoon	2015	Co-written by his daughter, this riveting novel follows the formative years of Malcolm X. Malcolm Little's parents always told him that he can achieve anything, but from what he can tell, that's a pack of lies--after all, his father's been murdered, his mother's been taken away, and his dreams of becoming a lawyer have gotten him laughed out of school. There's no point in trying, he figures, and he escapes into a world of fancy suits, jazz, girls, and reefer. But his efforts to leave the past behind lead him into increasingly dangerous territory. Deep down, he knows that the freedom he's found is only an illusion--and that he can't run forever. X follows Malcolm from his childhood to his imprisonment for theft at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him to forge a new path and command a voice that still resonates today.
Medina, Meg	<i>Burn Baby Burn</i> or any title by Meg Medina	2016	Nora Lopez is seventeen during the summer of 1977, when New York is besieged by arson, a massive blackout, and a serial killer named Son of Sam. Meg Medina transports us to a time when tempers and temperatures ran high to share the story of a young woman who discovers that the greatest dangers are often closer than we like to admit.
Satrapi, Marjane	<i>Chicken with Plums</i> or any title by Marjane Satrapi	2006	Tehran in 1958, and Nasser Ali Khan, one of Iran's most revered tar players, discovers that his beloved instrument is irreparably damaged. Though he tries, he cannot find one to replace it, one whose sound speaks to him with the same power and passion with which his music speaks to others. In despair, he takes to his bed, renouncing the world and all its pleasures. Over the course of the week that follows, his family and close friends attempt to change his mind, but Nasser Ali slips further and further into his own reveries: flashbacks and flash-forwards from his own childhood through his children's futures. And as the pieces of his story slowly fall into place, we begin to understand the profundity of his decision to give up life.