

KITTATINNY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Grade 9 Annotated Summer Reading List – June 2010

B - Biography/Autobiography /
Memoir

C - Classic
CF - Contemporary Fiction

GN - Graphic Novel
HF - Historical Fiction

M – Mystery
NF - Non Fiction

SCI/Fi - Science Fiction
SF – Sports Fiction

B *A Child Called It: One Child's Courage to Survive*

by Dave Pelzer

This is an autobiography of an abused child, isolated from other family members by his alcoholic mother. Through his strong will and inner strength, he describes how he overcame her abuse.

CF *Absolute true Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

by Sherman Alexie

A Native American boy is a regular target for bullies and at the encouragement of a teacher leaves the Indian reservation for an affluent school where he makes friends and shows his resilience.

NF *The City of Z* by David Grann

In 1925, British explorer Col. Percy Harrison Fawcett sets out on a journey to find an ancient Amazonian city. Fawcett, along with his son, Jack, never returned. The book explores the continuation of the obsession of uncovering the mysteries of the jungle adventure.

Sci/Fi *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

Following the murder of his family, a baby wanders from his house into a graveyard where he is raised by ghosts and given the name, Nobody Owens, or Bod to his friends. Although there are dangers and adventures in the graveyard, it is safer here for Bod than being discovered by Jack who killed his family.

Sci/Fi *House of Scorpions* by Nancy Farmer

Set in the future where clones are despised, Matt is a clone of El Patrón, a powerful drug lord. While other clones have had their intelligence destroyed, Matt's was spared. When El Patrón dies, Matt must escape to stay alive.

C *I Am the Cheese* by Robert Cormier

This story is a psychological thriller about Adam Farmer who sets out on a bicycle ride to find his father. The story shifts between his bike ride journey and discovering his past life and true identity.

B *I Have Lived a Thousand Years:*

Growing up in the Holocaust

by Livia Bitton Jackson

This story is an inspiring, detailed memoir of a 13-year-old Hungarian, Jewish girl, held prisoner in Auschwitz. It describes how she and her mother helped each other survive and were eventually liberated.

NF *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer

An account of the 1996 Mt. Everest climbing adventure, when after reaching the summit, a group of climbers were hit by a sudden snow-storm leaving behind many dead. The author describes through his personal experiences, the great heroism and tragedy of those involved.

M *The Killer's Cousin* by Nancy Werlin

After David is acquitted of murdering his girlfriend, he moves to Boston to live with relatives, including his eccentric 11-year old cousin, Lilly, to finish his senior year of high school.

GN *Maus* by Art Spiegelman

A graphic novel about the Holocaust and the effects it had years later on those surviving as well as the next generation. The story unfolds in comic-book style approach with cats representing the Nazis and the Jewish people as mice.

CF *Monster* by Walter Dean Meyers

A 16-year-old boy tells his story from prison after being accused of serving as a lookout for a robbery of a drugstore where the owner was shot and killed.

HF *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo

This is a first-person narrative by a young English boy, Thomas, who lies about his age in order to fight in World War I with his older brother Charlie. Thomas hopes to prove himself to his family, his country and his childhood love, Molly.

HF *Red Badge of Courage*

by Stephen Crane

This is an American classic which takes place during the American Civil War. Henry Fleming joins the fighting against the wishes of his mother. After he flees from battle, he struggles with his guilt. He eventually is called upon to face his fears and overcome his cowardice.

M *Scat* by Carl Hiaasen

An unpopular biology teacher is missing after a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp. Nick and Marta investigate and their detective work takes them on an adventure complete with endangered animals, illegal hunting, the ethics of environmental awareness and other twists.

CF *Speak* by Laurie Anderson

A teenage girl is ostracized by her friends for calling the police during a summer party. A traumatic event has led to her being unable to speak and the cause unfolds throughout the story.

SF *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor

Paul moves to a Florida community and makes friends, becoming known as a geek due to his poor eyesight and thick glasses. His older brother, Erik, quickly becomes the star of the football team and is the prized son of his parents. When mysterious things start happening, Paul realizes Erik may not be what he seems to be.

CF *That Summer* by Sarah Dessen

While dealing with her parents' divorce and her sister's wedding, Haven must let go of myths from the past. Her sense of humor helps her cope with her physical appearance and her ever changing life.

C *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

An American classic set in the south during the Great Depression. A young girl watches her father, a lawyer, defend a black man accused of a crime he did not commit. The coming-of-age story examines racial inequalities.

SF *Travel Team* by Mike Lupica

Danny loves basketball and is very dedicated to following in the footsteps of his legendary father. When Danny doesn't make the travel team, his father takes over coaching those who were cut until he is sidelined and Danny must take control.

M *Whatever Happened to Janie*

by Caroline Cooney

A kidnapped, adopted child struggles between two families after being returned to her birth parents from the family who raised her. This mystery is the sequel to *Face on the Milk Carton*.