

2009 Summer Reading List

Incoming 8th Grade

You must read *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World...One Child at a Time* (Young Reader's Edition). **In addition**, you are encouraged to read at least 1 book from this list plus 1 more book of choice for a total of 3 books.

Mandatory Read

Mortenson, Greg, David Oliver Relin and Sarah Thomson.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World... One Child at a Time.

In 1993, while climbing one of the world's most difficult peaks, Mortenson became lost and ill, and eventually found aid in the tiny Pakistani village of Korphe. He vowed to repay his generous hosts by building a school; his efforts have grown into the Central Asia Institute, which has since provided education for 25,000 children. *Retold for middle readers, the story remains inspirational and compelling. (Young Reader's Edition)*

Bradbury, Ray. Fahrenheit 451.

A classic novel set in the future when books forbidden by a totalitarian regime are burned.

Bray, Libba. A Great and Terrible Beauty.

Sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England to go to finishing school after her mother's mysterious death, and becomes aware of her ability to enter into the spirit world. **(Sequels also accepted)**

Bronte, Charlotte. Jane Eyre.

Jane Eyre becomes a governess in Mr. Rochester's home of Thornfield and falls in love with him before she finds that he has a tragic secret.

Caine, Rachel. Glass Houses.

In Morganville, Texas, a town where evil terrorizes the streets under the cover of darkness, Claire Danvers, who has had enough of her current dorm situation, moves off campus and discovers that the town is run by vampires. Original. **(Sequels also accepted)**

Chevalier, Tracy. Girl with a Pearl Earring.

Sixteen-year-old Griet, a servant in the house of famous seventeenth century Dutch painter, Vermeer, becomes the inspiration for one of his most important paintings.

Conner, Leslie. Waiting for Normal.

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Cooney, Caroline. Code Orange.

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.

Cooney, Caroline. If the Witness Lied

In this gripping thriller, Caroline B. Cooney details how love, devotion, and forgiveness make resilience—and recovery—possible.

Crichton, Michael. **Andromeda Strain.**

Four American scientists race against an atomic deadline fighting a contaminating agent from outer space.

Dickens, Charles. **Oliver Twist.**

A young orphan struggles to survive on the mean streets of London.

Funke, Caroline. **The Thief Lord.**

Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with -- and the protection of -- Venice's "Thief Lord."

Grant, Michael. **Gone.**

In the blink of an eye. Everyone disappears. GONE. Except for the young. Teens. Middle schoolers. Toddlers. But not one single adult. No teachers, no cops, no doctors, no parents. Just as suddenly, there are no phones, no internet, no television. No way to get help. And no way to figure out what's happened. Hunger threatens. Bullies rule. A sinister creature lurks. Animals are mutating. And the teens themselves are changing, developing new talents—unimaginable, dangerous, deadly powers—that grow stronger by the day. (Like a modern-day Lord of the Flies)

Johnson, Maureen. **13 Little Blue Envelopes**

When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

Junger, Sebastian. **The Perfect Storm.**

In 1991 off Nova Scotia, three major storms converge to form a super storm, which threatens everyone caught in its powerful winds and waves.

King, Laurie. **The Beekeeper's Apprentice.**

A teenage girl from California meets Sherlock Holmes near his retirement home on the Moors, and then joins him in battling England's master criminals.

Klages, Ellen. **The Green Glass Sea.**

In 1943, eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan lives with her scientist father in Los Alamos, New Mexico, as he works on a top secret government program, and befriends an aspiring artist who is a misfit just like her. Sequel: White Sands, Red Menace.

Littman, Sarah Daren. **Confessions of a Closet Catholic.**

To be more like her best friend, eleven-year-old Justine decides to give up Judaism to become Catholic, but after her beloved, religious grandmother dies, she realizes that she needs to seek her own way of being Jewish.

Meyer, Carolyn. **The True Adventures of Charley Darwin.**

In nineteenth-century England, young Charles Darwin rejects the more traditional careers of physician and clergyman, choosing instead to embark on a dangerous five-year journey by ship to explore the natural world.

Montgomery, Lucy Maud. **Anne of Green Gables.**

Anne, a feisty orphan, has arrived at her new home only to discover that the Cuthbert's wanted to adopt a boy, but she tries to win them over in this classic story. (Any book in series accepted)

Murphy, Jim. **The Real Benedict Arnold.**

"Drawing on Arnold's surviving writings and on the letters, memoirs, and political documents of his contemporaries ... a fascinating portrait of a brilliant man, consistently undervalued by his peers, who made a choice that continues to reverberate through American history.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. **The Mayflower and Pilgrims New World** (adaptation).

Offers the true story of the pioneers who crossed the Atlantic to establish a new world in Massachusetts, the challenges they faced upon their arrival, and their relationship with the local Native Americans.

Pratchett, Terry. **Nation.**

After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

Rex, Adam. **The True Meaning of Smekday.**

Twelve-year-old Gratuity Tucci has a hard time writing an essay on "The True Meaning of Smekday" due to her complex life after Earth was overtaken by aliens and her mother was kidnapped and taken to Happy Mouse Kingdom in Florida.

Ruditis, Paul. **Drama! The Four Dorothys.**

Follow aspiring comedian Brian Stark as he survives the daily dramas of his posh high school in Malibu and all the events leading up to the lavish spring musical.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. **Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village.**

A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor.

Setterfield, Dianne. **The Thirteenth Tale.**

When her health begins failing, the mysterious author Vida Winter decides to let Margaret Lea, a biographer, write the truth about her life, but Margaret needs to verify the facts since Vida has a history of telling outlandish tales.

Venkarraman, Padma. **Climbing the Stairs.**

Set during World War II and the last days of British occupation in India, this remarkable debut poignantly depicts a young girl struggling to find her place in a mixed-up world, and tells a powerful story about love and loss set against a fascinating historical backdrop.