John C. Birdlebough H.S. Grade 9 HONORS Summer Reading List

Please choose 1 classic book and 1 modern book from the list to read this summer. You will complete an assignment on each book you choose.

Rating System: If you are worried about mature content (coarse language, violence, and/or sexuality), please stick with a G or PG-rated book. Books with PG-13 will contain some mature content, and books that receive an R rating will contain many instances of mature language and content.

If you would like more information on the novels, please visit the following sites: www.commonsensemedia.org and www.parentalbookreviews.com.

CLASSIC Fiction

Alcott, Louisa May  Little Women

Date Published: 1868  500 pages  1300 Lexile Rated PG

Genre: Realistic Fiction, Romance

Summary: Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth, the four March sisters, are growing up and learning to rely on one another through the tough times. Their father is away at war, and their mother is working to support the whole family.

Austen, Jane  Emma

Date published: 1815  400 pages  990 Lexile  Rated PG

Genre: Realistic Fiction, Romance

Summary: Emma knows everything about matchmaking. Though she is twenty and should be considering marriage herself, she has convinced herself she will never marry.
Stoker, Bram  
**Dracula**

Date Published: 1897  
276 pages  
960 Lexile  
Rated R

Genre: Fantasy, Horror

Summary: Dracula wants to move from Transylvania to England, so he may find new blood. To do so, he must battle a small group of men and women led by Professor Van Helsing.

---

Tolkien, JRR  
**The Hobbit**

Date published: 1937  
320 pages  
1000 Lexile  
Rated PG

Genre: Fantasy

Summary: A mild-mannered Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who avoids adventure, is swept into a quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom from Smaug, a terrifying dragon.

---

**MODERN Fiction**

Graff, Lisa  
**A Tangle of Knots**

Date published: 2013  
240 pages  
840 Lexile  
Rated G

Genre: Fantasy

Summary: A multiple person narrative guides this twisty and turny story of talents, mysterious suitcases, and a pie-making contest.

---

Green, John  
**Looking for Alaska**

Date Published: 2005  
221 pages  
930 Lexile  
Rated R

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Summary: Miles leaves his home in Florida for a boarding school in Alabama. He is accepted by a smart group of pranksters who teach him about friendship and love.
King, Stephen  
*The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*

Date published: 1999  
224 pages  
1040 Lexile  
Rated R

Genre: Fantasy, Horror

Summary: Nine-year-old Trisha McFarland wanders off by herself on a family hike and becomes hopelessly lost in the wilderness. Trisha has only her resourcefulness, bravery, and faith to help her survive.

Levithan, David  
*Every Day*

Date published: 2012  
325 pages  
650 Lexile  
Rated R

Genre: Fantasy

Summary: Every day since birth, A has woken up in a different body. Maybe a girl; maybe a boy—always interesting.

McNeal, Tom  
*Far Far Away*

Date published: 2013  
384 pages  
790 Lexile  
Rated PG-13

Genre: Fantasy

Summary: The ghost of Jacob Grimm knows he must protect Jeremy Johnson but he has no idea from whom or what.

Rowell, Rainbow  
*Eleanor and Park*

Date published: 2013  
328 pages  
580 Lexile  
Rated R

Genre: Young Adult, Realistic Fiction

Summary: A story with dual narratives: two misfits living in Omaha, Nebraska in the 80’s form a connection through music and comic books.
Smith, Roland \textit{Peak}

Date published: 2008  
256 pages  
760 Lexile  
Rated PG-13

Genre: Adventure, Realistic Fiction

Summary: A fourteen-year-old boy, who should be in jail for vandalism, attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Zusak, Markus \textit{I Am the Messenger}

Date published: 2005  
368 pages  
640 Lexile  
Rated R

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Summary: After thwarting a bank robbery, do-nothing, go-nowhere Ed Kennedy is challenged by an unknown benefactor to become a better person by helping those around him.

\textbf{MODERN Non-fiction}

Crutcher, Chris \textit{King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography}

Date published: 2003  
272 pages  
1180 Lexile  
Rated PG-13

Genre: Autobiography, Comedy

Summary: Chris Crutcher discussed growing up and the relativity of life.

Krakauer, John \textit{Into Thin Air}

Date published: 1993  
416 pages  
1320 Lexile  
Rated PG-13

Genre: Adventure, Memoir

Summary: Author Jon Krakauer decides to climb Mount Everest, so he can write an article about it. Unfortunately, he joins the most disastrous Everest expedition in history.
Ralston, Aron  
*Between A Rock and A Hard Place*

Date published: 2005  
368 pages  
1210 Lexile  
Rated R

Genre: Adventure, Memoir

Summary: The author, Aron Ralston, recounts his harrowing experiences of being trapped for six days in Blue Canyon in Utah and having to amputate his own right arm in order to save his life.

Walls Jeanette  
*The Glass Castle*

Date published: 2005  
304 pages  
1010 Lexile  
Rated R

Genre: Non-fiction, Memoir

Summary: The author recalls growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother.