

REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9
(Pick **two** and read before the beginning of 2009-2010 school year)

Adams, D. / *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*: Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for an intergalactic highway, Arthur Dent heads off with his friend Ford Prefect to do research for a book called *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. They go on to meet interesting robots and graduate students, and explore such pressing questions as "Where have all the ballpoint pens I've lost in my life gone?" They also write a guidebook.

Adams, R. / *Watership Down*: English bunnies face off against developers who threaten their homes. Yes, they have their own folk history and language, but it's not all about rabbits. It's also about what words like "home" and "freedom" mean.

Brown / *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*: In 1890, desperate after losing their land and freedom to the expanding white population, Siouxs danced at Wounded Knee, South Dakota to call on the Great Spirit to remove the whites from America. This book describes their fate, and the fate of other Native Americans during that century.

Card / *Ender's Game*: Ender Wiggin has the job of inventing war games to prepare specially bred military geniuses to battle attacking aliens. Will he win in the end?

Cisneros / *The House on Mango Street*: Told as a series of vignettes, this book describes the life of a girl growing up in Latino Chicago.

Cormier / *The Chocolate War*: This is a powerful and suspenseful novel about high school politics, cruelty and conformity.

Crane / *The Red Badge of Courage*: What did war look like from the trenches themselves to a very young soldier swept up in the events of the American Civil War? This novel gives us an intimate view of the experience.

Du Maurier / *Rebecca*: Rebecca is the almost mythical, perfectly elegant and beloved first wife whose shadow darkens the world of the unsophisticated narrator who succeeds her—until she learns the truth about Rebecca.

Hillenbrand / *Seabiscuit*: The American depression years knew one hero above all, a character who got more newspaper coverage than FDR during his racing years: *Seabiscuit*. Knock-kneed with a gait the sports writers said made him look like an eggbeater, this one-time loser who made it big became an inspirational hero to his fans.

Hilton / *Lost Horizon*: Three men and a woman try to escape political upheaval in the orient and end up lost in Tibetan mountains when their plane crashes. Here they find--then lose--a hidden paradise.

Kahn / *The Boys of Summer*: Roger Kahn covered the Brooklyn Dodgers for the New York Herald Tribune. This is a history of their glory days—where the men who defined the team came from and what's happened to them since.

Lowry / *The Giver*: Jonas lives in a perfect society without pain or war. But when The Giver chooses him for "Special Instructions," his life is changed forever.

McCullers / *Member of the Wedding*: All that Frankie wants is to continue to be in her beloved sister's life—and when her sister plans her wedding, this means that Frankie assumes that she will be a member of that wedding. This novel is one of American literature's southern classics.

Masters / Spoon River Anthology: This collection of poems, all written as monologues, gives people from every corner of the community known as Spoon River a voice. By its end, the reader knows all the secrets of this vibrant, very American, town.

Remarque / All Quiet on the Western Front: Paul Baumen and his fellow soldiers in Germany's Iron Youth march into WWI hoping for glory. This novel traces their experiences with trench warfare as it actually was—decidedly unglorious.

Sandburg / Lincoln: The Prairie Years: This is one of the most celebrated of all the biographies of Lincoln, focusing on his early life and roots in the American west.

Stoker / Dracula: The classic story of the famous vampire.

Terkel / Working: This oral history of work and workers includes interviews with men and women from all walks of life, performing all kinds of labor. Terkel makes the honor and dignity to be found in daily labor very clear.

Wells / War of the Worlds: "The granddaddy of all alien invasion stories," was first published in 1898. Martians arrive to use human life to sustain their own.

Wouk / The Caine Mutiny: A story of daily life—and mutiny—in a navy warship in the Pacific theater of WWII.