

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
Summer Reading List – June, 2009

FICTION

Albom, Mitch. *Five People You Meet In Heaven*

The novel weaves together three stories, all told about the same man: 83-year-old Eddie.

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*

The four March sisters learn about life while living through the Civil War.

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*

Catherine Earnshaw is drawn to Heathcliff, a mysterious orphan whom her father brings home.

Binchy, Maeve. *Circle of Friends*

Loyal friends Benny and Eve grow up together in an Irish village.

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl With The Pearl Earring*

The novel centers on the 17th-century Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer household during the 1660s.

Cisneros, Sandra. *House On Mango Street*

Esperanza Cordero uses poems and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.

Esquivel, Laura. *Like Water For Chocolate*

The action of this novel centers around the kitchen, the heart and soul of a traditional Mexican family.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *This Side Of Paradise*

The novel tells the story of Amory Blaine, as he grows up during the crazy years following WWI.

Gaines, Ernest. *A Lesson Before Dying*

A young Black teacher struggles to impart a sense of pride to Jefferson before he must face his death.

Goldberg, Myra. *Bee Season*

First prize in her school spelling bee changes 9-year-old Eliza Naumann and her family.

Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell To Arms*

A soldier and nurse fall in love during WWI.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees*

Marietta Greer is catapulted into a surprising new life when her car runs out of gas in Taylorville, Ill.

McCullers, Carson. *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter*

The characters are the damned, the voiceless, and the rejected of a small southern town.

Naylor, Gloria. *The Women Of Brewster Place*

It chronicles the strength of seven diverse black women who live in a decaying urban neighborhood.

Tan, Amy. *The Kitchen God's Wife*

It is an absorbing story about the lives of a Chinese mother and her adult American-born daughter.

Toole, John Kennedy. *A Confederacy Of Dunces*

Comic adventures of Ignatius J. Reilly, a 30-year-old medievalist who lives at home with his mother in New Orleans.

Walker, Alice. *Meridian*

A young woman attempts to find her place in the revolution for racial and social equality.

PLAYS AND POETRY

Auburn, David. *Proof*

Catherine, who sacrificed college to care for her mentally ill father is left in limbo after his death.

Collins, Billy, Ed. *Poetry 180: A Turning Back To Poetry*

An anthology contemporary poems.

Fugard, Athol. *Master Harold And The Boys*

Concerns the relationship between a white teen and two Black servants in South Africa during apartheid.

Keillor, Garrison. *Good Poems*

A collection of 300 poems each with an amusing introduction.

Henley, Beth. *Crimes Of The Heart*

Three sisters reunite just before one is going to jail

Pinsky, Robert, Ed. *Americans' Favorite Poems*

200 poems submitted by Americans to the favorite poem project.

Simon, Neil. *Brighton Beach Memoir*

A teenager grows up in Brooklyn in the 1930s.

Valdez, Luis. *Zoot Suit*

Based on the zoot-suit riots of 1940s Los Angeles, when a group of Chicano men were jailed on a murder charge.

Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*

A New Orleans couple has their lives upended by the arrival of a disturbed, faded Southern belle.

Wilson, August. *Fences*

Troy Maxson and his family deal with work, marriage, family disputes, mental illness, violence, and more in 1950s Pittsburgh.

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Brashares, Ann. *Sisterhood Of The Traveling Pants*

Four friends share one pair of magical pants over the course of a summer.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*

A swim team full of misfits learns important life lessons.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Just Ella*

A unique retelling of the Cinderella story.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam*

A teenage learns about life and basketball in Harlem.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Beast*

A surprising retelling of Beauty and the Beast.

Parks, Gordon. *The Learning Tree*

A true-to-life novel of growing up as a black man in the middle of the 20th century.

Peck, Robert. *A Day No Pigs Would Die*

The experiences of a young man growing up in a Shaker community.

Rostkowski, Margaret. *After the Dancing Days*

Annie learns to stand up to her mother in the days following the end of The Great War.

Sparks, Nicholas. *A Walk To Remember*

Told mainly from the point of view of 17-year-old Landon Carter, this novel touches listeners with the bittersweet urgency of pure love and life's impermanence.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Armstrong, Lance. *Every Second Counts*

Confronts the challenge of moving beyond his cancer experience, his first Tour victory, and his celebrity status.

Asinof, Eliot. *Eight Men Out*

The tale of the greatest scandal the world of baseball has known.

Bissinger, H.G. *Friday Night Lights*

The story of a town obsessed with its champion high-school football team

Conroy, Pat. *My Losing Season*

A losing basketball team discovers how suffering can be transformed to become a source of strength and inspiration.

Coulton, Larry. *Counting Coup*

The social dilemmas faced by present-day Native Americans are revealed in this look at a high school girls' basketball team.

Eig, Jonathan. *Luckiest Man: The Life And Death Of Lou Gehrig*

Gehrig's accomplishments make him one of the best baseball players of all time.

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Sea biscuit: An American Legend*

The story of the horse who became a cultural icon.

Jackson, Phil. *Sacred Hoops*

An inside look at the higher wisdom of teamwork from head coach Phil Jackson.

Longman, Jere. *The Girls of Summer : The U.S. Women's Soccer Team and How It Changed the World*

The story of the women's team, their rise to world dominance, and their struggle for the support, respect, and salary they deserve.

Malamud, Bernard. *The Natural*

The book explores the mythic world of baseball.

THRILLERS AND MYSTERIES

Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None*

The story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host.

Clancy, Tom. *The Hunt For Red October*

A military thriller considered the greatest espionage novel in history.

Clark, Mary Higgins. *The Cradle Will Fall*

A woman sees a man put a body in a trunk.

Grisham, John. *The Client*

A young witness is hunted by the mob.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-time*

An autistic boy sets out to solve a murder.

Hillerman, Tony. *A Thief Of Time*

When two corpses appear amid stolen goods and bones at an ancient burial site, Leaphorn and Chee must plunge into the past to unearth the truth

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
Summer Reading List – June, 2009

King, Stephen. *Salem's Lot*

A novel about the slow takeover of a small town by a vampire.

Ludlum, Robert. *The Bourne Identity*

His memory is blank. He only knows that he was flushed out of the Mediterranean Sea, his body riddled with bullets

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

Adams, Douglas. *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy*

Arthur Dent travels the galaxy with his pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes.

Bradbury, Ray. *The Martian Chronicles*

Stories of the colonization of Mars form an eerie mesh of past and future.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*

Aliens have almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win, the world government breeds military geniuses.

Clarke, Arthur C. *Childhood's End*

Earth has been invaded by an alien race that no one has ever seen: the Overlords.

Crichton, Michael. *Jurassic Park*

A dinosaur-bites-man disaster tale set on an island theme park gone terribly wrong.

Dick, Philip K. *The Man In The High Castle*

What if America lost WW2 and is occupied jointly by Nazi Germany and Japan?

Dickinson, Peter. *Eva*

A coma victim has her memory and brain patterns transferred to a chimpanzee.

Gaiman, Neil. *Neverwhere*

The protagonist joins a quest through the dangerous London Below, a shadow city of forgotten people, places, and times.

Pullman, Phillip. *The Golden Compass*

A rebellious child becomes involved in one of the biggest events that her or any other world will ever encounter.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix*

The fifth Harry Potter book takes a uniquely psychological dark turn.

Tolkien, J.R.R. *Lord of The Rings: The Fellowship Of the Rings*

Frodo, an ordinary hobbit, goes on a wild adventure to the darkest of all places.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse Five*

We follow Pilgrim through all phases of his life, including his experience as a POW who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden.

Wells, H.G. *War Of The Worlds*

The classic tale of aliens landing on earth is still powerful and compelling.

HISTORY, POLITICS, & MODERN CULTURE

Bradley, James. *Flags of Our Fathers*

The unique stories of the men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima.

Cuomo, Kerry Kennedy. *Speak Truth To Power*

Inspiring lives of the common women and men all who believe in liberty and justice.

Davis, Kenneth C. *Don't Know Much About History*

Connects the myths and misconceptions of history and shows that truth is more entertaining than propaganda.

Giuliani, Rudolph W. *Leadership*

The ex-mayor demonstrates how he used an aggressive, hands-on management style to deal with everything from petty crime to terrorism.

Hedges, Chris. *War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning*

This moving book examines the continuing appeal of war to the human psyche.

Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*

Analyzes the often-violent means by which political power is seized and retained, and the circumstances in which it is lost.

McPhee, John. *The Pine Barrens*

Insightful book about the botanical, cultural, and historical peculiarities of this region.

Parati, Michael. *The Terrorism Trap*

A richly informed and powerfully argued analysis of the deeper causes and meaning of September 11

Powell, Colin. *My American Journey*

Author's journey from the South Bronx through his rise to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Preston, Richard. *The Hot Zone*

The dramatic story of an Ebola virus outbreak in a suburban Washington, D.C. laboratory.

Steinberg, Jacques. *The Gatekeepers: Inside The Admissions Process Of A Premier College*

It follows six applicants of varying backgrounds from their first encounter with the admissions officer to their final acceptance or rejection.

Yeager, Chuck. *Yeager: An Autobiography*

Yeager both lived and made aviation history.

GENERAL NON-FICTION

Albom, Mitch. *Tuesdays With Morrie*

This is the loving story of Morrie, a wise and good man, as he lies dying from a terminal illness.

Canfield, Jack, et al. *Chicken Soup For The Teenage Soul*

Contains stories, and poems relating to the specific troubles that traumatize teenagers everywhere.

Capuzzo, Michael. *Close To The Shore: Terror In The Age Of Innocence*

In 1916, bathers along the East Coast were frightened away by a series of vicious attacks in the water.

Conroy, Pat. *The Water Is Wide*

Conroy spent a year teaching a small group of black children who were lost in time.

Ehrenreich, Barabara. *Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By In America*

The author finds out just how to survive on the wages of the unskilled.

Gutman, Israel. *Resistance: The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.*

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943 pitted hundreds of poorly armed, starving Jews fighting to the death, in total isolation, against an overwhelming Nazi army.

Junger, Sebastian. *The Perfect Storm*

Junger re-creates the last moments of the *Andrea Gail* as well as the perilous high-seas rescues of other victims of this major storm.

King, Ross. *Brunelleschi's Dome: How A Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture*

The dome of the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore remains one of the most towering achievements of Renaissance architecture.

Murphy, Jim. *An American Plague: The True And Terrifying Story Of The Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*

History, science, politics, and public health come together in this account of a yellow fever epidemic.

Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of The All American Meal*

The development of fast-food restaurants has led to widespread obesity, urban sprawl and more.

BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*

This is the story of Angelou's early life with her grandmother in Arkansas.

Baker, Russell. *Growing Up*

The author recollects growing up in Virginia, New Jersey and Baltimore in the 20s and 30s.

Hart, Elva Trevino. *The Barefoot Heart: Stories Of A Migrant Child*

A career woman looks back on her Mexican-American family's impoverished years with stark dignity.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air*

Riveting first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest in March 1996.

Lalicki, Tom. *Spellbinder: The Life Of Harry Houdini*

Lalicki successfully weaves together information about the magician's personal life and his public exploits.

Mathabane, Mark. *Kaffir Boy*

The author's describes growing up in a nonwhite ghetto outside Johannesburg--and how he escaped its horrors.

McBride, James. *The Color Of Water*

This is the story of Ruth McBride Jordan, the two good men she married, and the 12 good children she raised.

McCourt, Frank. *Angela's Ashes*

McCourt writes about his difficulties growing up in Ireland.

Petry, Ann. *Harriet Tubman: Conductor Of The Underground Railroad*

The story of the courageous woman who guided over 300 slaves to freedom.

Wright, Richard. *Black Boy*

Wright's book tells of his journey from innocence to experience in the Jim Crow South.