

SCHOOL-WIDE SUMMER READING

All students entering 9th – 12th grade should read ONE of the following novels. While summer reading is NOT MANDATORY...it is highly recommended to help enrich the students' reading skills and enhance their overall understanding of literature. The summer reading will be assessed during the 1st quarter of school, and extra credit will be given to those students who successfully complete the assessment. Please note the summer reading books were selected by parents, students and faculty on our School Advisory Committee (SAC) team.

The Great Wide Sea by M.H. Herlong

From School Library Journal

Grade 7–10—Ben Byron, 15, is angry. Just two months after the death of his mother in a car accident, his dad, crushed by the loss of his wife, sells their house and small boat and uses the money to buy the *Chrysalis*, a 30-foot sailboat. He uproots Ben and two younger sons for a yearlong tour of the Bahamas. Life goes as smoothly as it can for a while, despite the tension, chores, and close quarters. But one morning everything changes—their father disappears. When the boat heads into a terrible storm, Ben must act. Throughout the novel, the protagonist's emotions ring true. Although the sailing details are a bit technical at times, Herlong spins an engrossing, suspenseful tale of survival.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Zusak has created a work that deserves the attention of sophisticated teen and adult readers. Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read—and her foster father uses it, *The Gravediggers Handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she's roused by regular nightmares about her younger brother's death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal), and especially her foster parents.

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

From Library Journal

Other reviewers have raved about the unbelievable but true account of Krakauer and his journey to the summit of the highest peak in the world, Mt. Everest. Krakauer, an experienced climber, was expected to chronicle the thrill of a lifetime: participation in a guided expedition (underwritten by *Outside* magazine) to an astounding 29,028' above sea level. He shares the history, the personalities, the emotion, and the grueling physical acclimatization of the most deadly season ever (May 1996) to reveal the horror that ensues after a blizzard strikes the precipice, ultimately killing nine people from four different expeditions (all climbing to the top on the same day).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students entering AP Language or AP Literature have REQUIRED summer reading, and therefore are NOT participants in this activity.