



*Bernardsville Middle School  
2011 Summer Reading*



*Students Entering Grade 9*

**Please Note:** All suggested summer reading titles are recommended for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. It is up to you and your parents/guardians to decide which books are appropriate for you.

**REQUIRED READING:**

All students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade **ARE REQUIRED** to read **TWO BOOKS** over the **SUMMER!**

Everyone **MUST** read:



***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – Mark Haddon***

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Everyone **MUST** pick **ONE** additional title from the following **TWO** choices:

***The Life of Pi - Yann Martel***

Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.

***It's Not About the Bike - Lance Armstrong***

Champion cyclist Lance Armstrong describes his triumph over cancer.

**Top Teacher Picks:**

***Graceling - Kristin Cashore***

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

***Looking for Alaska – John Green***

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

***Kissing Doorknobs – Terry Spencer Hesser***

Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends.

***My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, & Fenway Park – Steve Kluger***

Three Boston teens, about to become seniors, learn important lessons about friendship, love, family, and themselves as they work to complete an English assignment on their "most excellent year."

**- Miss MacGorman, BMS School Librarian**

***Shift - Jennifer Bradbury***

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.

***Gone - Michael Grant***

In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town

residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not.

***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* - E. Lockhart**

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

- Miss Oswald, BHS School Librarian

### ***Additional Suggestions:***

***The Lord of the Rings: Single-Volume Edition* – J.R.R. Tolkien**

A one-volume edition of the trilogy which tells of the quest undertaken by the hobbit Frodo and his companions to journey across Middle-earth and cast the evil One Ring, into the Cracks of Doom.

***How Not to Be Popular* - Jennifer Ziegler**

Seventeen-year-old Sugar Magnolia Dempsey is tired of leaving friends behind every time her hippie parents decide to move, but her plan to be unpopular at her new Austin, Texas, school backfires when other students join her on the path to "supreme dorkdom."

***Num8ers* – Rachel Ward**

Fifteen-year-old Jem knows when she looks at someone the exact date they will die, so she avoids relationships and tries to keep out of the way, but when she meets a boy named Spider and they plan a day out together, they become more involved than either of them had planned.

***Wintergirls* – Laurie Halse Anderson**

Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

***How to Steal a Car* - Pete Hautman**

Kelleigh, a fifteen-year-old suburban high school student with a learner's permit, recounts how she began stealing cars one summer despite being unsure of her reasons for doing so.

***All We Know of Heaven* – Jacquelyn Mitchard**

Sixteen-year-old best friends Maureen and Bridget are in a terrible accident where Bridget dies and is incorrectly identified as Maureen; but when Maureen recovers, she must deal with the repercussions of the accident as well as the loss of her best friend.

***Unwind* – Neal Shusterman**

Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.

***Three Little Words* – Ashley Rhodes-Courter**

Ashley Rhodes-Courter provides an account of her life, focusing on the nine years she spent in Florida's foster care system after being removed from her mother at the age of three, and explaining how her life changed after she was adopted.

***Shiver* – Maggie Stiefvater**

In all the years she has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house, Grace has been particularly drawn to an unusual yellow-eyed wolf who, in his turn, has been watching her with increasing intensity.

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* - Mark Twain**

This novel follows the adventures of a boy and a runaway slave as they travel down the Mississippi River on a raft.

***Impossible* – Nancy Werlin**

When seventeen-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes that she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born to break the curse and to save them both.

***The Knife of Never Letting Go* – Patrick Ness**

Todd, one month away from an important birthday, learns all the tough lessons of adulthood when he is forced to flee after discovering a secret near the town where he lives.

***The Mortal Instruments Series* – Cassandra Clare**

Suddenly able to see demons and the Darkhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into this bizarre world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster.