



**Bernardsville Middle School
2010 Summer Reading**



Students Entering Grade 9

..... suggested summer reading titles are recommended for the 9th grad.....
you and your parents/guardians to decide which books are appropriate for you.

REQUIRED READING:

All students entering 9th grade ARE REQUIRED to read TWO BOOKS over the SUMMER!

Everyone MUST read:

***Three Cups of Tea* - Greg Mortenson (Young Adult Edition)**

Greg Mortenson recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children.

Everyone MUST pick ONE additional title from the following THREE 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.

***Harmless* - Dana Reinhardt**

Emma, Anna, and Mariah, fourteen-year-old private school students, lie to their parents about their late-night activities and, when they are caught in their lies, concoct a story about a strange man attacking them, leading to problems for an innocent man and the girls' families.

***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.

***Marcelo in the Real World* – Francisco X. Stork**

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and

injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

***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:

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."

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - Mark Twain

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

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.

Climbing the Stairs – Padma Venkarraman

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.

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.

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.

Ironman – Chris Crutcher

While training for a triathlon, seventeen-year-old Bo attends an anger management group at school

which leads him to examine his relationship with his father.

Numbers – 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.

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.

Slam – Nick Hornby

At the age of fifteen, Sam Jones's girlfriend gets pregnant and Sam's life of skateboarding and daydreaming about Tony Hawk changes drastically.

Sold – Patricia McCormick

A novel in vignettes, in which Lakshmi, a thirteen-year-old girl from Nepal, is sold into prostitution in India.

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.

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.