



## **Watchung Borough Schools Valley View School Summer Reading**

The Valley View Staff encourages our students to read during the summer. Our favorite books are a starting point for the children to choose books and authors which will appeal to them. We also encourage the reading of magazines and newspapers, both are appropriate for summer reading. The goal is for students to develop a love and lifelong appreciation of reading.

In his book *The Power of Reading* (1993), Stephen Krashen found that: "If children read one million words a year, at least one thousand words will be added to their vocabulary. (One study found this could easily be accomplished by letting children and teens read any format reading material they wanted, including comic books and teen romances.) "

Krashen found that Free Voluntary Reading resulted in improved:

- Reading comprehension
- Writing style
- Vocabulary
- Spelling
- Grammatical development

**While there are no specific reading assignments, students are required to read novels over the summer. The following is only a suggested reading list, because students are encouraged to select reading materials of personal interest. This will encourage our students to become independent, lifelong readers. A written component reflecting on summer reading will be required of all students during the first week of the 2010-2011 school year.**

**Please see the guidelines for the grade you are entering.**

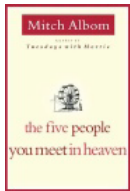
List is also available on the VALLEY VIEW website.

<http://watchungschools.com/watchung/Valley%20View/ top>

Revised 6/10

All of the book descriptions and book covers on the list are taken from our Alexandria Researcher Program, Barnes and Noble.com, or Follett Titlewave.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Albom, Mitch

Fictional Memoir

Mrs. DeVillers

A bitter eighty-three-year-old war veteran who believes his life is meaningless dies while trying to save a little girl's life and finds himself in heaven, where five people from his past--some loved ones, some strangers--explain what his years on Earth really meant, and whether or not he succeeded in saving the child.



Tuesdays with Morrie

Albom, Mitch

Biography

Mrs. Santos

The author, an alumnus of Brandeis University, tells of his meetings with a former professor suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease and of the lessons he learned about life and death from his college mentor.



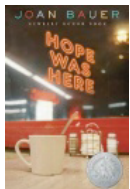
The Perfect Mile : Three Athletes, One Goal, and Less Than Four Minutes to Achieve It

Bascomb, Neal

Collective Biography

Mr. Miller

American journalist Bascomb tells how beginning in 1952, three young men—Australian, American, and British—rivalled to be the first to run a mile in less than four minutes. Roger Bannister did it in 1954, but it turned out that instead of breaking the barrier, they only pushed it back to the newest shorter time and the races continued.



Hope was Here

Bauer, Joan

Realistic Fiction

Mrs. Walsh

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



The Wizard of Oz

Baum, L. Frank

Fantasy

Mrs. Maresca

After a cyclone transports her to the land of Oz, Dorothy must seek out the great wizard in order to return to Kansas.



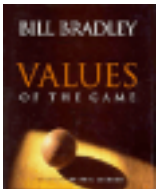
Are You There God, It's Me Margaret

Blume, Judy

Realistic Fiction

Mrs. Carhart

Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.



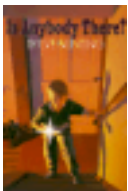
Values of the Game

Bradley, Bill

Nonfiction Essays

Mr. Murphy

An insightful and inspirational book, Values of the Game is former Senator and basketball Hall-of-Famer Bill Bradley's consideration of the value of competitive sports.



Is Anybody There

Bunting, Eve

Mystery

Mrs. Klim-Urbano

After discovering the disappearance of several household items, Marcus, a thirteen-year-old latchkey child, suspects that a stranger may be prowling around inside his house while he's at school and his mother is at work.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



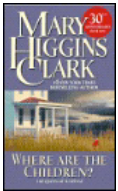
The Secret Garden

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

Classic

Mrs. Keane

A boy who has lived as a spoiled invalid regains his health when he and his orphaned cousin restore a once-lovely garden.



Where are the Children

Clark, Mary Higgins

Mystery

Mrs. Gaskins

Nancy had fled from the evil of her first marriage, the macabre deaths of her two little children, and the charges against her. Now she had a new family--until the morning she could not find her children.



School Story

Clements, Andrew

School Fiction

Mrs. Kieltyka

After twelve-year-old Natalie writes a wonderful novel, her friend Zoe helps her devise a scheme to get it accepted at the publishing house where Natalie's mother works as an editor.



Hunger Games

Collier, Suzanne

Fantasy

Mrs. Warchol

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



The Count of Monte Cristo

Dumas, Alexander

Historical Fiction

Mr. White

After escaping from the island where he has been in prison, Edmond Dantes plots his revenge on the people responsible for his imprisonment.



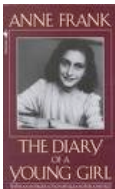
House of the Scorpion

Farmer, Nancy

Science Fiction

Ms. DeStio

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.



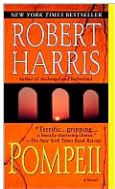
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

Frank, Anne

Biography

Mrs. Marley

A thirteen-year-old Dutch-Jewish girl records her impressions of the two years she and seven others spent hiding from the Nazis before they were discovered and taken to concentration camps.



Pompeii

Harris, Roger

Historical Fiction

Mr. Allmer

This story of a corrupt, violent society focused on its own pleasure, set against the fascinating history of a familiar catastrophe, makes for a compelling drama. School Library Journal

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



Dune

Herbert, Frank

Science Fiction

Mr. Riley

Forced by the Emperor of the known universe to live in exile on a barren planet, Duke Leto Atreides and his son lead the struggle against the Empire.



The Outsiders

Hinton, S.E.

Realistic Fiction

Ms. MacLeod-Kervel

The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parents' deaths, and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.



Nancy Drew Mysteries

Keene, Carolyn

Mystery

Mrs. Ray

Nancy and her friends solve mysteries which come up around them.



The View From Saturday

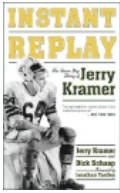
Konigsburg, E. L.

Realistic Fiction

Mr. Mehl

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



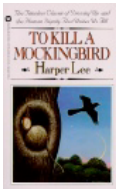
Instant Replay

Kramer, Jerry

Sports Non-Fiction

Mr. Thomas

Jerry Kramer chronicles the tenth season he spent playing as the Green Bay Packers' offensive lineman, recording his day-to-day experiences as a player and his impressions of the other players, his coaches, and fans.



To Kill a Mockingbird

Lee, Harper

Historical Fiction

Mrs. Rovito

The explosion of racial hate and violence in a small Alabama town is viewed by a little girl whose father defends a black man.



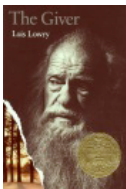
Chronicles of Narnia

Lewis, C. S.

Fantasy

Mrs. Lavin

Four children enter a magic land and help a talking lion save his kingdom from a wicked queen.



The Giver

Lowry, Lois

Fantasy

Mrs. Flanagan

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



The Way of the Peaceful Warrior

Millman, Dan

Fiction

Mr. Buglovsky

This bestseller is based on the story of a champion gymnast who, guided by a powerful old warrior, journeys into realms of romance and magic.



Anne of Green Gables

Montgomery, L.M.

Historical Fiction

Ms. Rydberg

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.



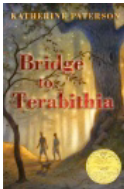
Animal Farm

Orwell, George

Fantasy

Mr. McCarthy

Orwell's brilliant 1946 satire, chronicling a revolution staged by the animals on Mr. Jones's farm.



Bridge to Terabithia

Paterson, Katherine

Realistic Fiction

Mrs. Mirenda

Jess Aarons gains the strength to cope with unexpected tragedy by going to a secret kingdom in the woods invented by Leslie Burke, a newcomer to his rural Virginia community.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



My Sister's Keeper

Picoult, Jodi

Realistic Fiction

Mrs. Buccarelli

Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate.



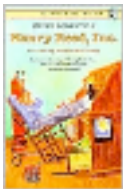
Where the Red Fern Grows

Rawls, Wilson

Realistic Fiction

Mrs. Blackadar

The adventures of a ten-year-old boy and the two dogs he bought with money he had earned.



Henry Reed, Inc.

Robertson, Keith

Realistic Fiction

Mrs. Thompson

Henry Reed has arrived in Grover's Corner - and the town will never be the same. While spending the summer with his aunt and uncle, Henry comes up with a sure-fire money-making project: Henry Reed, Inc., Research. Henry's neighbor, Midge Glass, has an even more sure-fire hit: Reed and Glass, Inc. Now with Henry's ingenious mind and Midge's practical reasoning, Reed and Glass Inc. turns into a huge success - while creating more bewildering and outrageous schemes than the townsfolk could have imagined!



Missing May

Rylant, Cynthia

Realistic Fiction

Mrs. Dye

After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



Killer Angels

Shaara, Michael

Historical Fiction

Mr. Vignola

A fictional account of four days in July, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg discussing tactics, plans, and preparations for battle from both the Northern and Southern points of view.



A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Smith, Betty

Historical Fiction

Mrs. Rutkowski

Young Francie Nolan experiences the problems of growing up in a Brooklyn slum.



The Egypt Game

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley

Fantasy

Ms. Catlin

A group of children, entranced with Egypt, play their own game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend the Professor before they move on to new interests, such as Gypsies.



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Taylor, Mildred

Historical Fiction-1930's

Mrs. Chesebro

A black family living in the South during the 1930's are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.

## Valley View Summer Reading Faculty Favorites



Let the Circle be Unbroken

Taylor, Mildred

Historical Fiction

Ms. Yoos

Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need.



Charlotte's Web

White, E. B.

Fantasy

Mrs. Barreto

Wilbur the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner, Then his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.