All students at BCD are encouraged to read widely this summer. We want children to love reading, and summer is the ideal time to explore, enrich and grow.

The lists for Preschool and Lower School students, for whom summer reading is encouraged but not required, suggest appropriate books for their reading and/or listening pleasure.

All children entering Grades 3 through 9 are required [a] to read at least four books during the summer and [b] to be prepared to write reports on them in the fall. One particular book, which counts as one of the four, is required for each student in grades 4 through 8. Students entering Grade 9 are also required to read four books. However, in their case, two titles are required.

Last year’s lists have been reviewed and amended; some titles have been removed, while new ones have been added. In the past, the grouping of grades into sections—Grades 1 and 2, Grades 3 and 4, Grades 5 and 6, and Grades 7 and 8 worked well and will be continued this year. Grade 9 is a stand-alone list. In a few cases, several book titles appear on more than one list. Books which will (or may) be read in class in the coming year are not listed, as the English teachers do not wish them to be read in advance.

Once children have met requirements (if any), they need not stop reading! They may choose to read other books from their lists or, as long as the titles are appropriate, they may read books from other lists or books which do not appear on the BCD lists at all. The best indicator of your child’s reading level is a measurement called the “5 Finger Readability Test.” Ask your child to read a random page of at least 100 words. If there are more than five (5) words that are unfamiliar, perhaps another book would be more appropriate.

Award winning books are also good choices. Lists of Caldecott and Newbery titles (as well as other award winners) can be found at www.ala.org.

The Summer Reading Lists have been sent to The Bookstore in Lenox, The Bookloft in Great Barrington, the Chatham Bookstore, Barnes & Noble in Pittsfield, and all of the public libraries in the region. Most titles are readily available in any bookstore or library. Keep in mind that used bookstores are wonderful places to save money, recycle, and enjoy the luxury of an inexpensive hardcover copy!
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Bank Street Ready-to-Read
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Dorling Kindersley Readers
Early Step Into Reading
I Can Read
My First Hello Reader
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Warner, Gertrude Chandler
The Boxcar Children series

White, E. B.
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Wilder, Laura Ingalls
Little House in the Big Woods
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Williams, Margery
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ABC Mysteries
A to Z Mysteries
American Girl
Cam Jansen
DK Eyewitness
Count Your Way Through China, etc.
A Family in France, etc.
Children of Mauritania, etc.
Magic Tree House
Nate the Great

Easy Reading Series

Bank Street Ready-to-Read
Bob Books
Dorling Kindersley Readers
Step into Reading
Required Reading

Grade 3
Four books of your choice at your appropriate reading level

Grade 4
*Pizza, Pigs and Poetry* by Jack Prelutsky.

Plus three other books of your choice at your appropriate reading level

Recommended Reading

Aardema, Verna
*Misoso — Once Upon a Time Tales from Africa*

Adler, David
*Cam Jansen* series

Alexander, Lloyd
*The Fortune Tellers*

Atwater, Richard
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Lawson, Robert
Rabbit Hill
Ben and Me: an Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin
Mr. Revere and I
And others
LeGuin, Ursula
A Ride on the Red Mare's Back
L'Engle, Madeline
A Wrinkle in Time
A Wind in the Door
Swiftly Tilting Planet
And others
Lenski, Lois
Strawberry Girl
Indian Captive: the Story of Mary Jemison
And others
Levy, Elizabeth
Something Queer at the Ball Park
The Schoolyard Mystery
And others
Lindgren, Astrid
Pippi Longstocking series
Lofting, Hugh
The Story of Doctor Dolittle
Doctor Dolittle's Return
The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle
And others
MacDonald, Betty
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle series
Maclachlan, Patricia
Sarah, Plain and Tall
Skylark
Seven Kisses in a Row
And others
Mathis, Sharon Bell
Hundred-Penny Box
Mayer, Marianna
Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave
McCully, Emily Arnold
The Bobbin Girl
The Pirate Queen
Ballot Box Battle
And others
Milne, A. A.
Winnie-the-Pooh
The House at Pooh Corner
When We Were Very Young
Now We Are Six
Norton, Mary
The Borrowers series
Bed-knob and Broomstick
Parish, Peggy
The Key to the Treasure Haunted House
Amelia Bedelia series
Paulsen, Gary
Hatchet
And others
Peterson, John
The Littles series
Prelutsky, Jack
For Laughing Out Loud
A Pizza the Size of the Sun
And others
Ransome, Arthur
Fool of the World and the Flying Ship
Riordan, Rick
The Lightening Thief
And others
Robinson, Barbara
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
The Best School Year Ever
Rogaskey, Barbara
Rapunzel
Rowland, Della
The Story of Sacajawea — Guide to Lewis and Clark
Sacher, Louis
Wayside School series
Schwartz, Alvin
Scary Stories To Tell in the Dark series
Scieszka, Jon
Time Warp Trio series
Selznick, Brian
The Inventions of Hugo Cabret
Seredy, Kate
The White Stag
Simon, Seymour
Our Solar System
And others
Sobol, Donald
Encyclopedia Brown series
Spinelli, Jerry
Maniac Magee
Steig, William
Abel's Island
Dominic
Steptoe, John
The Story of Jumping Mouse
Stevie
Stevenson, Robert Louis
A Child's Garden of Verses
Taylor, Sydney
All-of-a-Kind Family series
Travers, Pamela L.
Mary Poppins
Van Allsburg, Chris
The Wreck of the Zephyr
Warner, Gertrude Chandler
The Boxcar Children series
White, E. B.
Charlotte's Web
Stuart Little
Wilder, Laura Ingalls
Little House in the Big Woods
Little House on the Prairie
And others
Series Books
The 39 Clues
American Girl
Magic Treehouse
Let's Read and Find Out Science
Dell Yearling
DK Closer Look
DK Eyewitness
Count Your Way Through China, etc.
A Family in France, etc.
Children in Morocco, etc.
Folklore
Andersen's Fairy Tales
Grimm's Fairy Tales
Robin Hood
King Arthur
Paul Bunyan
Aesop's Fables
Easy Reading Series
Bank Street Ready-to-Read [level 3 and above]
Dorling Kindersley Readers [level 3 and above]
Step into Reading [step 3 and above]
Required Reading
Grade 5
The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan.
Plus three other books of your choice at your appropriate reading level
Grade 6
The City of Ember by Jeanne DuFrau
If the first of this series has already been read, please read the next novel in this four book series. You are welcome to read all four novels.
The People of Sparks
The Prophet of Yorwood
The Diamond of Darkhold
Plus three other books of your choice at your appropriate reading level

Recommended Reading
Aiken, Joan
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase
Night Birds on Nantucket
Black Hearts in Battersea
Arabel's Raven
A Touch of Chill
Alcott, Louisa May
Little Women
Little Men
Jo's Boys
Eight Cousins
Rose in Bloom
Alexander, Lloyd
The High King
The Book of Three
And others
Anderson, Dave
The Story of Golf
The Story of Basketball
And others
Babbitt, Natalie
The Search for Delicious
Tuck Everlasting
Kneenock Rise
Goody Hall
Banks, Lynne R.
The Indian in the Cupboard
The Return of the Indian
And others
Barrie, James
Peter Pan
Barrow, T.A.
The Merlin Effect
Bauer, Marion
On My Honor
Belalirs, John
The House with a Clock in Its Walls
And others
Birdsall, Jeanne
The Penderwicks
Blos, Joan W.
A Gathering of Days
Buck, Pearl
The Big Wave
Bunting, Eve
Someone Is Hiding on Alcatraz Island
Burnett, Frances H.
The Secret Garden
A Little Princess
Burnford, Sheila
The Incredible Journey
Byars, Betsy
The Summer of the Swans
The T.V. Kid
After the Goat Man
Blossom Family series
Cracker Jackson
Campbell, Joanna
A Horse of Her Own
Star of Shadowbrook Farm
Carroll, Lewis
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Choi, Sook Nyul
The Year of Impossible Goodbyes
Christopher, John
The White Mountains
Poole of Fire
City of Gold and Lead
The Prince in Waiting
And others
Christopher, Matt
Break for the Basket
Olympic Dream
Skateboard Tough
And others
Clark, Ann
Secret of the Andes
Cleary, Beverly
Strider
Ramona Forever
And others
Clements, Andrew
Frindle
And others
Cohen, Daniel
Witchcraft, Superstition
and Ghostly Magic Frauds, Hoaxes and Swindles
Real Ghosts
Phantom Animals
Restless Dead
And others
Collier, James
The Winter Hero
My Brother Sam Is Dead
Jump Ship to Freedom
Conrad, Pam
Prairie Songs
Cooper, Susan
The Dark Is Rising series
Coville, Bruce
Aliens—Tales to Warp Your Mind
And others
Creech, Sharon
Walk Two Moons
Absolutely Normal Chaos
And others
Cushman, Karen
Catherine, Called Birdy
The Midwife's Apprentice
The Ballad of Lucy
Dahl, Roald
Boy
The BFG [Big Friendly Giant]
Danny, The Champion of the World
The Witches
Mathilda
The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar
Danziger, Paula
The Cat Ate My Gumsuit
Everyone Else's Parents Said Yes
And others
D'Aulaires'
Norse Gods and Giants
Trolls
And others
Davies, Jacqueline
The Lemonade War
De Angelis, Marguerite
The Door in the Wall
Fiddle-strings
De Clemen, Barthe
Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade
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De Felice, Cynthia
Weasel
de Jong, Meindert
The House of Sixty Fathers
The Wheel on the School
Deuker, Carl
Heart of a Champion
DiCamillo, Kate
The Tale of Despereaux
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Dorris, Michael
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Dunning, Stephen
Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle
Eager, Edward
Magic or Not
Knights' Castle
Time Garden
Eckert, Allan
Incident at Hawk's Hill
Enright, Elizabeth  
The Saturdays  
The Four-Story Mistake  
Then There Were Five  
Thimble Summer  

Erdrich, Louise  
The Birchbark House  
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Farley, Walter  
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Field, Rachel  
Hitty, Her First Hundred Years  
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The Great Brain  

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Harriet the Spy  

Fletcher, Susan  
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Flight of the Dragon Kyn  

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Brady  
You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?  
Stonewall  

George, Jean  
My Side of the Mountain  
Julie of the Wolves  

Julie  
Julie’s Wolf Pack  
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Giff, Patricia Reilly  
The Gift of the Pirate Queen  
Love From the Fifth Grade Celebrity  
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Two Weeks with the Queen  

Gormley, Beatrice  
Back to the Titanic!  

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I Know You, Al  
Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe  
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Haugard, Eric  
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Henry, Marguerite  
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King of the Wind  
Born to Trot  
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When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit  

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Anne of Green Gables series  

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<td>Ransome, Arthur</td>
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<td>Riordan, Rick</td>
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<td><em>A Single Shard</em></td>
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<td><em>Merry Adventures of Robin Hood</em></td>
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<td>Snyder, Zilpha Keatley</td>
<td><em>And All Between</em></td>
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<td>Stevenson, R. L.</td>
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<td>Stewart, Trenton Lee</td>
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<td>Thurber, James</td>
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<td>Walde, Jules</td>
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<td>Walsh, Jill Paton</td>
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<td>Winthrop, Elizabeth</td>
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<td>Wojciechowska, Maia</td>
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<td>Wright, Betty Ren</td>
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<td>Yep, Laurence</td>
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<td>Yolen, Jane</td>
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<td>Series</td>
<td><em>The 39 Clues</em></td>
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Required Reading

Grade 7

My Brother Sam is Dead
by James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier

Plus three other books of your choice at your appropriate reading level

Grade 8

The Pearl
by John Steinbeck

Plus three other books of your choice at your appropriate reading level

Recommended Reading

Adams, Douglas
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Adams, Richard
Watership Down

Aiken, Joan
Midnight Is a Place
Touch of Chill

Alexander, Lloyd
The Beggar Queen
The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen
The Arkadians
And others

Anthony, Piers
A Spell for Chameleon
Source of Magic

Armstrong, William
Sounder

Asimov, Isaac
Fantastic Voyage
Foundation series

Avi
The Man Who Was Poe
Romeo and Juliet — Together at Last
True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

And others

Berlitz, Charles
The Bermuda Triangle

Blinn, William
Brian's Song

Blume, Judy
Tiger Eyes
Deenie
Just as Long as We're Together
And others

Borland, Hal
When the Legends Die

Bradbury, Ray
The Illustrated Man
Dandelion Wine

Braithwaite, E. R.
To Sir, With Love

Brooks, Terry
The Sword of Shannara
Elfstones of Shannara

Brown, Dee
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee

Buck, Pearl S.
The Good Earth
And others

Bunting, Eve
SOS Titanic

Card, Orson Scott
Memory of Earth
Red Prophet

Carter, Forrest
The Education of Little Tree

Cary, Lorene
Black Ice

Childress, Alice
A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich

Christie, Agatha
Murder on the Orient Express
And others

Christopher, John
The Prince in Waiting
Sword of the Spirit
Beyond the Burning Lands

Cleaver, V. And B.
Where the Lilies Bloom
And others

Cooper, Susan
The Dark Is Rising
The Grey King
The Boggart

Cormier, Robert
The Chocolate War
Beyond the Chocolate War
Fade

Creech, Sharon
Walk Two Moons
Absolutely Normal Chaos
Bloomability
And others

Crichton, Michael
The Great Train Robbery
The Andromeda Strain
Jurassic Park
Sphere
Congo
And others

Crutcher, Chris
The Crazy Horse Electric Game
Athletic Shorts
Ironman
Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes
And others

Cushman, Karen
Catherine, Called Birdy
The Midwife's Apprentice
The Ballad of Lucy Whipple

Danziger, Paula
The Cat Ate My Gymsuit
The Pistachio Prescription
There's a Bat in Bunk Five

DeFoe, Daniel
Robinson Crusoe

Deaver, Julie Reece
Say Goodnight, Gracie

Dickens, Charles
Great Expectations
Dickinson, Peter
A Bone From a Dry Sea

Doyle, A. Conan
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Eckert, Allen
Incident at Hawk's Hill

Forbes, Esther
Johnny Tremain

Fox, Paula
One-Eyed Cat

Frank, Anne
Diary of a Young Girl

Gallico, Paul
The Snow Goose

George, Jean C.
Julie of the Wolves
Julie
And others

Gibson, William
The Miracle Worker

Goodall, Jane
In the Shadow of Man
Solo

Gray, Elizabeth J.
Adam of the Road

Green, H.
I Never Promised You a Rose Garden

Greene, Bette
Summer of My German Soldier
The Drowning of Stephen Jones
Gregory, Kristiana
Earthquake at Dawn

Gunther, John
Death Be Not Proud

Hansberry, Lorraine
A Raisin in the Sun

Hautzig, Esther
The Endless Steppe

Hemingway, Ernest
A Farewell to Arms
For Whom the Bell Tolls

Herriot, James
All Creatures Great and Small
All Things Bright and Beautiful
All Things Wise and Wonderful

Heyerdahl, Thor
Kon Tiki

Hinton, S. E.
The Outsiders
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Houston, Jeanne
Farewell to Manzanar

Hunt, Irene
Across Five Aprils
Up a Road Slowly

Jacques, Brian
Redwall series

Johnston, Norma
The Keeping Days
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Keillor, Garrison
Lake Wobegon Days

Keller, Helen
The Autobiography of Helen Keller

Kelly, Eric
Trumpeter of Krakow

Kendall, Carol
The Gammage Cup

Kennedy, John F.
Profiles in Courage

Keyes, Daniel
Flowers for Algernon

Knowles, John
Peace Breaks Out
A Separate Peace

Konigsburg, E. L.
A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver
T-backs, T-shirts, Coat and Suit
The View from Saturday
And others

Larrick, Nancy, ed.
Piping Down the Valleys
Wild
Room for Me and a Mountain Lion

Lawson, Don
The United States in the Vietnam War
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A Wizard of Earthsea
The Tombs of Atuan
The Farthest Shore

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Fragments of Isabella

L'Engle, Madeleine
Meet the Austins
The Moon by Night
Camilla
Many Waters
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London, Jack
White Fang

MacLean, Alistair
The Guns of Navarone
Where Eagles Dare
Ice Station Zebra
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Snowbound
The Solid Gold Kid
And others

McCaffrey, Anne
Dragonsong series
Dragonriders of Pern
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The Hero and the Crown
The Blue Sword
The Outlaws of Sherwood

Melzer, Milton
Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?
Never to Forget
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The Bridges of Toko-Ri
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Death of a Salesman
The Crucible

Mitchell, Margaret
Gone With the Wind

Montgomery, L. M.
Anne of Green Gables series

Nix, Garth
Sabriel

O'Dell, Scott
The Spanish Smile
Carlota
The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day
Streams to the River, River to the Sea
The Serpent Never Sleeps
Island of the Blue Dolphins
The King's Fifth

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My Friend Flicka
Thunderhead
Green Grass of Wyoming

Orczy, Baroness
Scarlet Pimpernel

Pasternak, Boris
Dr. Zhivago

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Flip Flop Girl
Lyddie
Of Nightingales That Weep

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Too Late the Phalarope

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The Promise
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Tiger in the Well
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Men of Iron

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So Young To Die

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Rawlings, Marjorie
The Yearling

Rinaldi, Ann
The Secret of Sarah Revere

Rosen, Roger
Teenage Soldiers, Adult Wars

Rylant, Cynthia
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I Had Seen Castles

Serraillier, Ian
Escape from Warsaw

Shaara, Michael
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Speare, Elizabeth
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Staples, Suzanne
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Tristan and Isult
The Dragon Slayer
The Silver Branch

Taylor, Mildred
Let the Circle Be Unbroken
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
Road to Memphis

Taylor, Theodore
Timothy of the Cay
The Weirdo
The Bomb

Thomas, Dylan
A Child's Christmas in Wales

Thurber, James
The Thurber Carnival

Tolkien, J. R.
The Hobbit
The Lord of the Rings
Trilogy of Middle Earth

Tunis, John R.
The Kid from Tomkinsville
And others

Voigt, Cynthia
Homecoming
Dicey's Song
Building Blocks
Callende Papers
Seventeen Against the Dealer
And others

Washington, Booker T.
Up from Slavery

Wells, H. G.
The War of the Worlds
The Time Machine
And others

Wilder, Thorton
Our Town

Wodehouse, P. G.
The Code of the Woosters
Very Good, Jeeves
Fish Preferred
And others

Wouk, Herman
The Caine Mutiny

Valens, E. G.
The Other Side of the Mountain

Verne, Jules
Journey to the Centre of the Earth
Around the World in Eighty Days
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

Yep, Laurence
Child of the Owl
Dragonwings
Liar, Liar
Thief of Hearts
Ribbons
Dragon's Gate

Zeinert, Karen
The Amistad Slave Revolt and American Abolition
Required Reading

English

Of Mice and Men
by John Steinbeck

History

The Things They Carried
by Tim O’Brien

Recommended Reading

In addition to the two titles listed above, students are encouraged to choose additional reading from the lists which follow:

Fiction

Chute, Carolyn
The Beans of Egypt, Maine

Cormier, Robert
The Chocolate War
I Am the Cheese

Crichton, Michael
The Andromeda Strain

DeSaint-Exupery
The Little Prince

Faulkner, William
The Bear

Forester, C.S.

Gaines, Ernest J.
A Lesson Before Dying

Greene, Graham
The Quiet American

Jimenez, Juan Ramon
Platero and I

McCullers, Carson
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

McMurtry, Larry
The Last Picture Show

Peck, Richard
A Day No Pigs Would Die

Potok, Chaim
The Promise

Renault, Mary
The King Must Die

Rostand, Edmond
Cyrano De Bergerac

Trumbo, Dalton
Johnny Got His Gun

Wilde, Oscar
The Picture of Dorian Gray

Wouk, Herman
Marjorie Morningstar

Non-Fiction

Angelou, Maya
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Baker, Russell
Growing Up

Carson, Rachel
Silent Spring

Delaney Sisters
Having Our Say

Dineson, Isak
Out of Africa

Griffin, John Howard
Black Like Me

Herriot, James
All Creatures Great and Small

Heyerdahl, Thor
Kon-Tiki

Houston, Jeanne
Farewell to Manzanar

Junger, Sebastian
The Perfect Storm

Lord, Walter
A Night to Remember

Pipher, Mary
Reviving Ophelia

Postman, Neil
Amusing Ourselves to Death

Thomas, Lewis
The Lives of a Cell

Drama

Gibson, William
The Miracle Worker

Hansberry, Lorraine
Raisin in the Sun

Kesselring, Joseph
Arsenic and Old Lace

Lawrence, J. & Lee, R.
Inherit the Wind

Wilder, Thornton
Our Town

Zindel, Paul
The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon

Marigolds
Berkshire Country Day School exists
to inspire the individual promise of every student,
that each may become an exemplary citizen of the world.