

Wheaton North High School's

Awesome Non-Fiction Reading - 2007

We want you to have fun reading a book or two of your choice over the summer! Research shows that students who read independently read better and test higher than students who do not read independently. This summer reading list provides enjoyable selections that are not required for any academic course. Please understand that these are popular titles, and some may contain mature subject matter as noted. We encourage parents to read along with their students.

School Focus: Non-Fiction

Chew On This. Schollosser, Eric.

A teen version of *Fast Food Nation* filled with many scenarios, facts, and pictures. This book unwraps the fast-food industry to bring a behind-the-scenes look at a business that both feeds and feeds off the young. Shares what really goes on at fast-food restaurants.

In the Company of Heroes. Durant, Michael. With Steven Hartov.

The true story of chief Warrant Officer 4 (RET.) ~ *Black Hawk Down*. Michael Durant was shot down with a rocket-propelled grenade on October 3, 1993 as he was piloting a U.S. Army Special Operations Blackhawk over Somalia.

Note: mature content

Jim Thorpe: Original All-American. Bruchac, Joseph.

A true story about the life of Jim Thorpe written by a Native American. The story is told in Jim's voice and accented with photos from the time. Jim Thorpe was one of the greatest athletes who ever lived. He was born on the Sac and Fox Reservation and sent to various Indian boarding schools where he eventually met coach Pop Warner.

Oh, Rats! Marrin, Albert.

A picture book ~ The story of rats and people. Informational/factual text that weaves science, history, culture, and folklore surrounding the fearsome, fascinating world of rats.

Persepolis. Satrapi, Marjane.

A graphic novel ~ The true story of childhood growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Written in powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the effects of war with Iraq.

Note: mature content

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Teens. Carlson, Richard.

A teen advice book which offers simple ways to keep your cool during stressful times. Short two-page chapters with advice interwoven. Some topics: breakups, bad hair day, making peace, walk away, volunteer, and such.

The Math Instinct. Devlin, Keith.

There are two kinds of math: the hard kind and the easy kind. If we have innate mathematical ability, why do we have to teach math and why do most of us find it so hard to learn? Are there tricks or strategies that the ordinary person can do to improve mathematical ability? Can we improve our math skills by learning from dogs, cats, and other creatures that "do math?" The answer to each of these questions is a qualified yes.

Wheaton North High School's Enjoyable Reads!

This summer reading list provides enjoyable selections that are not required for any academic course. Please understand that these are popular titles, and some may contain mature subject matter as noted. We encourage parents to read along with their students.

Acceleration. McNamee, Graham. Duncan works in the subway's lost and found. He's bored until he finds the little brown book. The book is a diary filled with the secrets of an anonymous serial killer stalking his prey. Duncan has to stop him before it's too late. He has to anticipate the killer's next move. Stalk the stalker. Duncan knows – it's up to him.

American Born Chinese. Yang, Gene Luen. As alienated kids go, Jin Wang is fairly run-of-the-mill: he eats lunch by himself in a corner of the schoolyard, gets picked on by bullies and jocks and develops a sweat-inducing crush on a pretty classmate. And, oh, yes, his parents are from Taiwan. This much-anticipated, affecting story about growing up different is more than just the story of a Chinese-American childhood; it's a fable for every kid born into a body and a life they wished they could escape.

Among the Hidden. Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police.

Art Geeks and Prom Queens. Noel, Alyson. Being the new girl is tough—just ask sixteen-year-old Rio Jones. A New York transplant, Rio has no clue how she's going to fit in at her fancy new private school in Southern California. Plus, being late, overdressed, and named after a Duran Duran song doesn't make the first day any easier for her. Then Rio meets Kristi. Beautiful, rich, and a cheerleader, Kristi is the queen bee of Newport Beach. And Kristi isn't friends with just anyone, so Rio is thrilled when she's invited to be part of the most exclusive, popular clique.

Bone: Out From Boneville (Bone Series #1, Vol. 1). Smith, Jeff. The three Bone cousins -- Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone -- are separated and lost in a vast, uncharted desert. One by one, they find their way into a deep, forested valley filled with wonderful and terrifying creatures. Eventually, the cousins are reunited at a farmstead run by tough Gran'ma Ben and her spirited granddaughter Thorn. But little do the Bones know, there are dark forces conspiring against them, and their adventures are only just beginning!

Breathing Underwater. Flinn, Alex. Nick is one of the chosen few at high school: intelligent, popular, wealthy. People think his life is pretty easy. Except for one thing. Nick has never told anyone about his father's temper. When Nick meets Caitlin, he thinks that she is the answer to all of his problems. She is everything Nick has ever wanted – beautiful, smart, and in love with him. But then it all changes, and Nick must face the fact that he's gotten more from his father than green eyes and money.

Can't Get There From Here. Strasser, Todd. She lives with a tribe of homeless teens – runaways and throwaways, kids who have no place to go other than the cold city streets, and no family except one another. Abused, abandoned, and forgotten, they struggle against the cold, hunger, and constant danger living on the harsh New York streets.

Crossing the Wire. Hobbs, Will. In the mountains of central Mexico, fifteen-year-old Victor Flores has been scratching out a living for his family by farming ever since his father died. Days after Victor's best friend, Rico, runs away from home to seek a better life in the U.S., Victor learns that he may not be able to sell his corn this year. As his family teeters on the brink of disaster, Victor heads north in an attempt to "cross the wire" into the States, find work, and send money home.

Diva. Flinn, Alex. The sequel to *Breathing Underwater*, *Diva* traces a new chapter in 16-year-old Caitlin McCourt's life. After she breaks up with her abusive boyfriend, Caitlin enrolls in the Miami High School of the Arts, where she wants nothing more than to become an opera-singing diva. Her struggle to regain trust in people (mainly teenage boys and her mother) is as convincing and captivating as her journey to realize her dream.

D.N. Angel, Volume 1. Sugisaki, Yukiru. Daisuke Niwa is an ordinary middle school student with an extraordinary genetic "condition." Whenever he starts longing for the girl of his dreams, he transforms into the legendary Phantom Thief, Dark! The only way to lift the curse? To have his love returned. But how can Daisuke win the heart of a girl he can't even romance?

Fat Kid Rules the World. Going, K.L. Troy Billings is seventeen, 296 pounds, friendless, utterly miserable, and about to step off a New York subway platform in front of an oncoming train. Until he meets Curt MacCrae, an emaciated, semi-homeless, high school dropout guitar genius, the stuff of which Lower East Side punk rock legends are made. Soon, Curt's recruited Troy as his new drummer—even though Troy can't play the drums. Together, Curt and Troy will change the world of punk, and Troy's own life, forever.

Freaky Green Eyes. Oates, Joyce Carol. When her parents separate, Franky Pierson has no trouble deciding whose side she's on. After all, her mother is the one who chose to leave. And when her mother is suddenly reported missing, Franky believes she's simply pulled a disappearing act and deserted their family for good. But a part of Franky, a part she calls Freaky Green Eyes, knows that something is wrong. And it's up to Freaky to open Franky's eyes to the truth.

Goal! The Dream Begins. Rigby, Robert. While growing up on the tough streets of Los Angeles, Santiago's greatest joy is playing soccer. So it is a dream come true when a British scout sees him playing in the park and offers him a trial with one of England's top Premiership clubs. Determined to succeed, Santiago leaves behind his struggling family and his modest home, and flies halfway around the world to give it his best shot.

Great Moments In Baseball History. Christopher, Matt. Describes nine memorable moments from baseball's past, featuring Bill Wambsganss, Babe Ruth, Joe Nuxhall, Willie Mays, Ted Williams, Reggie Jackson, Dave Dravecky, Kirk Gibson, and Jim Abbott.

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery. Feinstein, John. For teen reporters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson, winning the national writing contest would have been prize enough. When they receive their all-access tickets to the NCAA Final Four basketball tournament, they are understandably gleeful. Their euphoria comes down a few notches, however, when they overhear a coach pressuring a player to throw a key game.

Mythbusters: The Explosive Truth Behind 30 of the Most Perplexing Urban Legends of All Time. Zimmerman, Keith and Kent. Special effects experts Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage, hosts of the Discovery Channel's top-rated *Mythbusters*, use modern-day extreme science to show you what's real and what's fiction. With photographs, illustrations, and exclusive interviews to document the MythBusting process, *MythBusters: The Explosive Truth Behind 20 of the Most Perplexing Urban Legends of All Time* examines dozens of urban legends, from exploding toilets to being buried alive - these guys have tested them all.

Nothing to Lose. Flinn, Alex. A year after running away with a traveling carnival to escape his unbearable home life, sixteen-year-old Michael returns to Miami, Florida, to find that his mother is going on trial for the murder of his abusive stepfather.

Notes From the Midnight Driver. 16-year-old Alex decides to get even. His parents are separated, his father is dating his former third grade teacher, and being 16 isn't easy, especially when it comes to girls. Instead of revenge though, Alex ends up in trouble with the law and is ordered to do community service at the senior center where he is assigned Solomon Lewis, a "difficult" senior with a lot of gusto, advice for Alex, and a puzzling (yet colorful) Yiddish vocabulary. Eventually, the pair learn to deal with their past and each other in ways that are humorous, entertaining, and life changing.

Portraits of African-American Heroes. Bolden, Tonya. A beautiful book consisting of portraits-in pictures and words-of twenty outstanding African-Americans. The individuals range from historical to contemporary figures, such as the dancer Judith Jamison, and represent diverse fields of endeavor, from the law to athletics, science, and more.

Ripley's Believe It or Not: Expect the Unexpected. Ripley's Publishing Company. This 256-page encyclopedia of oddities offers a wealth of amazing stories and features showcasing unexpected and unimaginable people, places, and creatures from around the world.

Rules of Survival. Werlin, Nancy. Seventeen-year-old Matt writes an extended letter to his youngest sister, Emmy, recalling their childhood with Nikki, their disturbed mother. When Nikki, just out of jail, kidnaps Emmy, Matt finds out exactly how far he will go to ensure his sister's safety.

Shattering Glass. Giles, Gail. By the end of the first paragraph, readers know that Simon Glass was easy to hate and that eventually he was killed. It takes the rest of the book to find out who killed him and why. Told in the different voices of students, teachers, counselors, and police, the story unfolds little by little until the explosive climax.

Tenderness. Cormier, Robert. Eric Poole has progressed from killing kittens, cats, and a canary to parents and unsuspecting young women. Now 18, he has paid for his mother and stepfather's murders with three years of juvenile detention and is ready to continue his "plan." Unfortunately, his looks and shallow charm are as pleasing on the outside as his character is ugly on the inside. The story unfolds through the eyes of two characters: Eric, and the luckless 15-year-old Lori, a runaway who met Eric once when she was 12 and is drawn to him like a moth to the flame. Even when she realizes his guilt, after he attempts to kill her, she can not desert him.

Note: mature content.

The Christopher Killer. Ferguson, Alane. The sleepy Rocky Mountain town of Silverton, Colorado hasn't seen a murder in years—according to Pat Mahoney, the county coroner. So when his teenage daughter, Cameryn, asks if she can be his assistant—as preparation for a career in forensic pathology—he figures it's a safe bet. But neither of them imagines that their first case will involve someone Cameryn knows . . . the fourth victim of a serial killer.

The First Part Last. Johnson, Angela. In chapters that flash between Bobby's relationship with Nia leading up to Feather's birth (entitled "then") and his life now that he's a father on his own ("now"), Johnson paints an honest, vivid portrait of a man straddling the line between childhood and adulthood.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Selznick, Brian. Orphan Hugo Cabret lives in a wall. His secret home is etched out in the crevices of a busy Paris train station. Part-time clock keeper, part-time thief, he leads a life of quiet routine until he gets involved with an eccentric, bookish young girl and an angry old man who runs a toy booth in the station. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* unfolds its cryptic, magical story in a format that blends elements of picture book, novel, graphic novel, and film. Caldecott Honor-winning author-illustrator Brian Selznick has fashioned an intricate puzzle story that binds the reader like a mesmerist's spell.

The Super Bowl: Legendary Sports Events. Christopher, Matt. Thrilling last-second victories, crushing defeats, jaw-dropping touchdown catches—and misses!—the Super Bowl has it all! Readers can relive forty years of Super Bowl history. Its pages chronicle the rise of such dynasties as the San Francisco 49ers and the New England Patriots as well as the agony felt by the losers. Photos and quotes from superstar players bring the games to life.