

QCHS Summer Reading 2009 Requirement

The goals:

1. Read. (The more you read, the more interesting life becomes!)
2. Help create a community of readers in your English class and throughout QCHS.
3. Share the book you enjoyed as a recommendation to classmates so they can select books for SSR throughout the year.
4. Use books to generate discussions with your peers and teachers.

The assignment:

1. Select **1** book from the QCHS Suggested Reading Lists, enclosed. These lists were developed from many sources and cover a wide range of interests. **(Students in AP Language and AP Literature will receive different lists from their teachers. They can read those books.)**
2. Read the book!
3. Jot a few notes so you will remember the book in September. (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How)
4. When you return to school, on a designated day early in September, students will share the books they read during PRIDE discussions.
5. In English class, you will respond to a one-page reflection assigned by your teacher.

Many of the books are available at the Michener Branch of the Bucks County Public Libraries on West Mill Street, Quakertown. The library runs its own program, with incentives! You can check the website at www.buckslib.org.

Books, with the lists, will also be available for purchase at local book stores.

The Lists

Coming of Age/Peer Pressure/Relationships

1. *My Sister's Keeper*, Jodi Picoult. Examines the difficult choices a family must make when one of the children is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness
2. *Running Out of Time*, Margaret Peterson Haddix. Jessica, who thinks it is 1840, is more than surprised to find out it is really 2006.
3. *Gossip Girls* series, Cecily von Ziegesar. Life inside a New York City jet-set private school.
4. *Just Listen*, Sarah Dessen. An incident at a high school party has far-reaching consequences.
5. *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac*, Gabrielle Zevin. A teenager loses her memory after a bad fall.
6. *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*, Davis Lubar. Scott Hudson hopes to survive his freshman year.
7. *Snitch*, Allison van Diepen. A teen tries to navigate between rival gangs.
8. *I am the Messenger*, Markus Zusak. A botched bank robbery changes a nineteen-year-old's life.
9. *Twisted*. Laurie Halse Anderson. Tyler, busted for tagging, tries to find his way through his senior year.
10. *The Truth About Forever*, Sarah Dessen. A teen has to cope with her father's death.

Fantasy/Science Fiction/Vampire

1. *A Certain Slant of Light*, Laura Whitcomb. Helen died 130 years ago, but she's still around.
2. *Cirque du Freak* series, Darren Shan. There is more to a traveling freak show than meets the eye.
3. *Elsewhere*, Gabrielle Zevin. Liz is getting younger, not older, every day.
4. *How I Live Now*, Meg Rosoff.. A world war breaks out in the 21st century.
5. *Life as We Knew It*, Susan Beth Pfeffer. A meteor collides with the moon, with disastrous results for Earthlings.
6. *Mother's Helper*, A. Bates. A most unusual babysitting experience.
7. *Wheel of Time* series, Robert Jordan. The world has been broken by a phenomenal power in this series that is reminiscent of Tolkien.
8. *Twilight* series, Stephenie Meyer. A modern day Romeo and Juliet!

Memoir and Non-Fiction

1. *Come Back: a Mother and Daughter Journey to Hell and Back*, Claire and Mia Fontaine. A riveting account of a mother's fight to rescue her daughter from drugs.
2. *Kick Me: Adventures in Adolescence*, Paul Feig. A series of stories about the rigors of high school survival.
3. *Girl, Interrupted*, Susanna Kaysen. A sixteen-year-old is hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital.
4. *Running With Scissors*, Augusten Burroughs. An account of growing up in an eccentric, dysfunctional family.
5. *The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls.. Another account of growing up in an eccentric, dysfunctional family.
6. *True Notebooks*, Mark Salzman. The author tries to reach convicts through the formation of a writing group.

Poetry

1. *A Rose that Grew from Concrete*, Tupac Shakur. The poetry of the late rapper.
2. *Burned*, Ellen Hopkins. Growing up in an abusive household, told in verse.
3. *Paint Me Like I Am: Teen Poems from WritersCorps*, Bill Aquado. Poems written by disadvantaged youth.
4. *Tears for Water*, Alicia Keys. Poems that recall the singer's childhood.

Sports

1. *Crackback*, John Coy. The trials and tribulations of teenage life, woven through the lense of a high school football team.
2. *Gym Candy*, Carl Deuker. Mick Johnson, high school football star, considers steroids use.
3. *Knights of the Hill Country*, Tim Tharp. Readers who liked *Friday Night Lights* will like this football drama.

Mystery

1. *Crazy Little Things*, Adam P. Knave. Twelve very strange tales.
2. *Fake ID*, Walter Sorrells. Chase, 16, only has six days to figure out why his mother disappeared.
3. *Falling*, Christopher Pike. FBI agent, Kelly Feinman, is on the trail of the "Acid Killer."
4. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, Mark Haddon. A poodle, Wellington, has been murdered. Christopher, who is autistic, is on the case.

5. *The Lovely Bones*, Alice Sebold. Susie Salmon recalls her murder from heaven.
6. *The Perfect Shot*, Elaine Marie Alphin. A triple homicide is not what it seems.

All students can select from the following list, which also serves as the Reading Olympics 2010 list. Should you decide to join the Reading Olympics club in the fall, you will already be a book ahead!

Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson
Adventures of Johnny Bunko by Daniel Pink
Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt
Bad Boy: A Memoir by Walter Dean Myers
Beast by Donna Jo Napoli
Black Like Me by John Griffin
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah
Cry in the Night by Mary Higgins Clark
Cuba 15 by Nancy Osa
Dawn by Elie Wiesel
Dragon by Elie Wiesel
Dragonsong by Anne McCaffrey
Fat Kid Rules the World by Kelly Going
Geeks by John Katz
Girl in the Hyacinth Blue by Susan Vreeland
Grendel by John Gardner
Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson
Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
Inherit the Wind by Jerome Lawrence
Invasion by Robin Cook
Ironman by Chris Crutcher
It's Not About the Bike by Lance Armstrong
Journey Back by Johanna Reiss

King's Shadow by Elizabeth Alder
Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
Luna by Julie Ann Peters
Magic Kingdom for Sale-Sold by Terry Brooks
Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones
My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult
Paper Towns by John Green
Pastwatch by Orson Scott Card
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
Prom by Laurie Halse Anderson
Riding the Bus with My Sister by Rachel Simon
Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama
So Yesterday by Scott Westerfield
Stardust by Neil Gaiman
Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach
Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers
They Came from Below by Nelson Blake
Timeline by Michael Crichton
Unwind by Neal Shusterman
Wedding by Dorothy West
Wyrd Sisters by Terry Pratchett
Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

Be sure to show your parents this packet, including the letter on the back side of this page.

Quakertown Community High School

Reading-Language Arts Department

Dear Parents,

This summer, Quakertown Community High School begins a new required summer reading program. Your child needs to read just ONE book and can select that book from many choices on the attached lists. Of course, the more books your children read, the better!

Attached you will find the requirements and lists. Some of the books contain mature content. We encourage you to get involved in your child's book selection. As an added family bonus, you can choose to read and discuss the book with your child.

Why are we doing this?

Educational research for the past several decades indicates:

- Students are more motivated to read when given a **choice** of titles that may interest them.
- If students enjoy what they read, their **skills** and **confidence** for reading will improve, thus making them more likely to challenge themselves with more difficult text.
- Students improve their reading skills when they **interact** with what they read and **make connections**. Making connections helps readers comprehend and remember a book.

Why doesn't the summer reading list include more rigorous titles?

The list of books was compiled by suggestions from teachers, students and national experts with the intention of encouraging reading for pleasure over the summer. Most people would agree that a book is not pleasurable if it is too difficult to understand.

What kind of books should students in Advanced Placement classes read?

Since those classes allow the possibility of college credit, the teachers of those classes will provide separate lists related to that curriculum.

Why are the books not arranged by grade level or age?

Titles are not arranged by grade levels or age appropriateness because books vary greatly by subject matter and difficulty of text. Therefore, every student should find a wide range of possible choices to read.

We appreciate your help as we all encourage children to read. The more they read, the better they will succeed!

Sincerely,
The QCHS RELA Department