

Summer Reading

Suggested List

Grade 11 going into Grade 12



	Title and Author	Brief introduction to the book
1.	<i>Chaos</i> , by James Gleick Non-fiction	An introduction to chaos theory: how it developed, and what makes it so useful. Full of anecdotes about the people involved, and with many beautiful full-color images of fractal sets.
2.	<i>The Great Railway Bazaar</i> , by Paul Theroux Non-fiction	In 1975, a writer takes trains all the way from London to Tokyo and back again. Each stage and each country is filled with people and encounters that are funny, scary, bizarre, colorful, poignant, or just plain nuts.
3.	<i>A History of the World in 10½ Chapters</i> , by Julian Barnes Fiction	A very different view of Noah's Ark, as told by a stowaway. A court case in 16th-century France in which the woodworm stands accused. A desperate woman's attempt to escape radioactive fallout on a raft. These and other slightly connected stories make up Barnes's witty and tart history of the world.
4.	<i>How to Fail at Nearly Everything and Still Win Big: Kind of the Story of My Life</i> , by Scott Adams Non-fiction	Scott Adams has failed at his corporate career, his inventions, his investments, and two restaurants. So how did he go from hapless office worker to the creator of <i>Dilbert</i> in just a few years? Among his lessons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals are for losers. Systems are for winners. • A combination of mediocre skills can make you surprisingly valuable. • You can manage your odds in a way that makes you look lucky to others.
5.	<i>Into Thin Air</i> , by Jon Krakauer Non-fiction	A first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. Despite the expertise of the leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead. The author, who was on the climb, tells the story of the ill-fated adventure and analyzes the factors that led to its tragic end.
6.	<i>Master Harold...and the Boys</i> , by Athol Fugard Fiction	A play about a white teenaged boy and two African servants, set in apartheid-era South Africa.

7.	<i>Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything</i> , by Joshua Foer Non-fiction	A science journalist covers the US Memory Championship, and decides to train for the competition himself. Full of great techniques and stories about memory and memorization.
8.	<i>The Things They Carried</i> , by Tim O'Brien Semi-fiction	Connected short stories about a platoon of American fighters before, during, and after the Vietnam War.
9.	<i>War</i> , by Sebastian Junger Non-fiction	The author follows a single platoon through a 15-month tour of duty in the most dangerous outpost in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley. One of the few books to show the extraordinary bond that forms between soldiers under fire.
10.	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , Jane Austen.	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , Jane Austen's witty comedy of manners is one of the most popular novels of all time-- which features splendidly civilized sparring between the proud Mr. Darcy and the prejudiced Elizabeth Bennet as they play out their spirited courtship in a series of eighteenth-century drawing-room intrigues.
11.	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Chinua Achebe.	The book tells two intertwining stories, both centering on Okonkwo, a "strong man" of an Ibo village in Nigeria. The first, a powerful fable of the immemorial conflict between the individual and society, traces Okonkwo's fall from grace with the tribal world. The second, as modern as the first is ancient, concerns the clash of cultures and the destruction of Okonkwo's world with the arrival of aggressive European missionaries.
12.	<i>House Rules</i> , Jodi Picoult.	The book focuses on what it means to be different in our society and gives insight into Asperger's and others who are on the Autism Spectrum. Jacob Hunt is a teenage boy with Asperger's syndrome. He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself to others, and like many children with Asperger's, Jacob has an obsessive focus on one subject--in his case, forensic analysis. He's always showing up at crime scenes, thanks to the police scanner he keeps in his room, and telling the cops what they need to do--and he's usually right. But then one day his tutor is found dead, and the police come to question him. Reluctance to make eye contact, stimulatory tics and twitches, inappropriate gestures, all these can look a lot like guilt.
13.	<i>A Time for Dancing</i> , David Wills Hurwin.	This is the story of four close girlfriends who have been inseparable for most of their 16 years and how they learn

		to deal with death and dying when one of them is diagnosed with cancer.
14.	<i>The Help</i> , Kathryn Stockett	Three ordinary women are about to take one extraordinary step....
15.	<i>Of Mice and Men</i> , John Steinbeck.	The tragic story of the complex bond between two migrant laborers in Central California. They are George Milton and Lennie Small, itinerant ranch hands who dream of one day owning a small farm. George acts as a father figure to Lennie, who is a very large, simple-minded man, calming him and helping to rein in his immense physical strength.

Some of you may not want to read a novel, but rather choose a selection (at least THREE) of these speeches. These come from the list of texts used in the new SAT exams, so it could be a good idea to become familiar with them now!

Ralph Waldo Emerson

1. [Essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)
2. [Nature by Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

American Founding Documents

3. [Declaration of Independence](#)
4. [The United States Bill of Rights](#)
5. [The Federalist Papers](#)
6. [U.S. Constitution](#)

Mahatma Gandhi

7. [Mahatma Gandhi - Freedom's Battle](#)
8. [Mahatma Gandhi - A Guide to Health](#)
9. [Mahatma Gandhi - Third Class in Indian Railways](#)

Henry David Thoreau

10. [Henry David Thoreau, "Walking"](#)
11. [Henry David Thoreau, "Cape Cod"](#)
12. [Henry David Thoreau, "Canoeing in the Wilderness"](#)
13. [Henry David Thoreau, "Excursions"](#)