

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

## Books to Enjoy this Summer

### 2008

#### STUDENTS ENTERING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE REGENTS:

You must read one book.

#### STUDENTS ENTERING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HONORS:

You must read two books.

**A Painted House by John Grisham (Fiction)** – Seven-year-old Luke Chandler works hard on his family’s farm picking cotton. The peaceful rural life changes, however, when migrant workers, both Mexican and white, come for the harvest. As tension increases, Luke witnesses a murder and becomes embroiled in its aftermath in this story of family love and cultural tension.

**Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier (Fiction)** – This novel takes place on a sprawling English estate where Maxim deWinter and his new frightened wife try to live with the haunting presence of Rebecca, Maxim’s first wife who died in a sailing accident. A classic novel filled with mystery and suspense.

**Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (Science Fiction)** – This is a classic novel set in the future when books forbidden by a totalitarian regime are burned. The hero, a book burner, suddenly discovers that books are flesh and blood ideas that cry out silently when put to the torch.

**Izzy Willy Nilly by Cynthia Voigt (Fiction)** – Beautiful, popular cheerleader Izzy Lingard’s whole life changes when she loses her leg below the knee in a car accident. As her shallow friends fall away, Izzy is freed to confront her disability and her true self, and find her way to a previously unimagined future.

**Bang the Drum Slowly by Mark Harris (Fiction).** Pitcher Henry Wiggen and his tag-along catcher and best friend, Bruce Pearson, are ballplayers for the fictionally fabled New York Mammoths. In their march toward the World Series, their story becomes a meditation on life, death, friendship, and loyalty. Although it is set against the backdrop of the Major Leagues, it is more than simply a baseball novel but rather a funny, moving study of human nature.

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**Jumping Fire: A Smokejumper's Memoir of Fighting Wildfire by Murray A. Taylor (Non Fiction - Memoir).** After three decades of battling blazes in Alaska and throughout the West, Taylor shares what it's like to hear the deafening roar, breathe the fumes, and feel the intense heat of flames that explode two hundred feet high. These are stories of man against nature at its most furious and unforgiving.

**And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie (Fiction-Mystery).** Trapped on an isolated island, ten houseguests become the prey of a diabolical killer. One by one the guests become victims as the reader attempts to solve the serial killings.

**Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card (Science Fiction).** This science fiction novel traces the progress of a young boy who goes from outcast to hero. First, however, he must be trained to become a killer capable of protecting his planet from an alien invasion.