

2010 Fulton County High School Summer Reading

Dear Students and Parents,

The Fulton County School System strongly believes in developing readers who read both for information and for pleasure. Books on the *Summer Reading List* vary in subject matter and level of difficulty. Our intent is to provide students and their parents with a wide range of authors and styles of writing in both fiction and non-fiction, and to allow students to select reading materials that match their interests.

Lexile levels are indicated for most books, and they address vocabulary and sentence structure. When vocabulary is repeated often and sentences are more simply written, a text has a lower Lexile score. Texts with less frequently-used vocabulary and with complex sentence structures have higher Lexile scores. Lexile scores do not address the maturity of the content or themes of a text.

This year, the decision was made to support standards-based learning by connecting many of the titles on the summer reading list to materials in the curriculum for each grade level. As a result, we have divided the summer reading list into books recommended for rising ninth and tenth graders and books recommended for rising juniors and seniors. The titles recommended for juniors and seniors may contain complicated narrative structures and/or more mature content. The short descriptions with each book title should assist you in your selections.

The descriptions which accompany each title have been adapted directly from publication materials, or from editorial reviews. The following sources were used to create this list: *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, and *Publisher's Weekly*.

Enjoy your summer reading!

Fulton County Schools English/Language Arts Department
Fulton County Schools Media Services Department

9th and 10th Grade Titles

***Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl Lexile 670**
Published by Little, Brown ISBN: 0316042676

There were no surprises in Gatlin County.
We were pretty much the epicenter of the middle of nowhere.
At least, that's what I thought.
Turns out, I couldn't have been more wrong.
There was a curse.
There was a girl.
And in the end, there was a grave.

Ethan Wate is convinced that nothing ever happens in his sleepy, small, Southern town – until a mysterious girl moves in with the town recluse in the dilapidated old plantation that legend says is haunted. His inexplicable connection to her leads him to unravel a mystery with roots in the very heart of the town's complicated and secret past.

***The Bride's Farewell* by Meg Rosoff**
Published by Viking ISBN: 0670020990

In Meg Rosoff's fourth novel, a young woman in 1850s rural England runs away from home on horseback the day she's to marry her childhood sweetheart. Pell is from a poor preacher's family and she's watched her mother suffer for years under the burden of caring for an ever-increasing number of children. Pell yearns to escape the inevitable repetition of such a life.

She understands horses better than people and sets off for Salisbury Fair, where horse trading takes place, in the hope of finding work and buying herself some time. But as she rides farther away from home, Pell's feelings for her parents, her siblings, and her fiancé surprise her with their strength and alter the course of her travels. And her journey leads her to find love where she least expects it.

***A Brief History of Montmaray* by Michelle Cooper Lexile 1000**
Published by Knopf Books ISBN: 0375858644

Sophie Fitzosborne lives in a crumbling castle in the tiny island kingdom of Montmaray with her eccentric and impoverished royal family. When she receives a journal for her sixteenth birthday, Sophie decides to chronicle day-to-day life on the island. But this is 1936, and the news that trickles in from the mainland reveals a world on the brink of war. The politics of Europe seem far away from their remote island – until two German officers land a boat on Montmaray. And then suddenly politics become very personal indeed.

A Brief History of Montmaray is a heart-stopping tale of loyalty, love, and loss, and of fighting to hold on to home when the world is exploding all around you.

***Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman**
Lexile 1020 Published by Henry Holt and Co. ISBN: 0805087214
2010 Printz Silver Medal, 2010 National Book Award Finalist

Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, his revolutionary tract on evolution and the fundamental ideas involved, in 1859. Nearly 150 years later, the theory of evolution continues to create tension between the scientific and religious communities. Challenges about teaching the theory of evolution in schools occur annually all over the country. This same debate raged within Darwin himself, and played an important part in his marriage: his wife, Emma, was quite religious, and her faith gave Charles a lot to think about as he worked on a theory that continues to spark intense debates.

***The Hunger Games - Catching Fire - Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins**
Lexiles 810, 820, TBD Published by Scholastic ISBN: 0439023483, 0439023491, TBD

Set in the not-too-distant future, Suzanne Collins' imaginative series follows teenager Katniss Everdeen, who is forced to participate in a *Lord of the Flies*-style competition by an oppressive totalitarian regime. After her performance in the first competition, she must find the courage to face her destiny as reluctant hero and revolutionary figure, igniting a revolution that could potentially end the world as she knows it. The final volume of the series will release August 24th.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**
Published by Random House ISBN: 1400052173

This text masterfully combines history, science, and biography to create a book that has been called "intimate in feeling, astonishing in scope, and impossible to put down." As a teenager in science class, author Rebecca Skloot first heard about the cell line known as He-La, the creation of which was a scientific breakthrough. He-La cells been used in medical research for decades and have been instrumental in breakthroughs for the treatment and prevention of diseases. Skloot wondered about the woman whose cells had been used to create He-La, and her curiosity lead to a search for answers that spanned decades.

Henrietta Lacks was a young mother and tobacco farm worker living in the Jim Crow-era south when she was diagnosed with an extremely aggressive strain of ovarian cancer. Before she died, her cells were cultured by her doctor, who was conducting research in an attempt to create an immortal cell line. Surprisingly, Henrietta's cells not only grew, but flourished. The impact that He-La cells have had on the scientific community is profound, but, until now, the life of the woman behind the cells has been lost in obscurity. Acting as a writer, detective, and historian, Rebecca Skloot pieces together a poignant portrait of the life of Henrietta Lacks and raises thought-provoking questions about the human implications and consequences of medical research.

***Impossible* by Nancy Werlin Lexile 670**
Published by Speak ISBN: 0142414913

Inspired by the ballad “Scarborough Fair,” this riveting novel combines suspense, fantasy, and romance for an intensely page-turning and masterfully original tale.

Lucy is seventeen when she discovers that the women of her family have been cursed through the generations, forced to attempt three seemingly impossible tasks or to fall into madness upon their child’s birth. But Lucy is the first girl who won’t be alone as she tackles the list. She has her fiercely protective foster parents and her childhood friend Zach beside her. Do they have love and strength enough to overcome an age-old evil?

***Jumped* by Rita Williams-Garcia Lexile 600**
Published by HarperTeen ISBN: 978006070915
2010 National Book Award Finalist

Leticia, a gossipy high-school student, knows that “Girl fights are ugly. Girl fights are personal.” She says this after overhearing that Dominique, the tough-as-nails basketball player, is planning to beat up pink-clad fashion-plate Trina at 2:45. The infraction was minor – the oblivious Trina cut off Dominique in the hallway – but for Dominique it was the last of a series of insults, the worst of which was being benched by Coach for failing to improve her grades. Bouncing between the three first-person accounts within the span of a single school day, Williams-Garcia makes the drama feel not only immediate but suffocatingly tense, as each tick of the clock speeds the three girls toward collision. Along the way, the characters’ disregard of such high-school stalwarts as *A Separate Peace* and *Of Mice and Men* subtly prepares the reader for the messy and gut-wrenching conclusion.

***Lips Touch: Three Times* by Laini Taylor Lexile: 990**
Published by Arthur A. Levine ISBN: 0545055857
2010 National Book Award Silver Medalist

With three fantastical, richly layered tales about the terrible and wonderful power of yearning, master storyteller Laini Taylor steals the reader’s breath as deftly as the most skilled lover. *Lips Touch* pulses with vivid imagery yet remains economical in its world-building, its unpredictable plot-spinning, and its compassionate characterization. Taylor draws from multiple literary and historical sources to spin a wholly original and unforgettable reading enchantment that is nothing short of a tour de force.

***Marcelo in the Real World* by Francisco X. Stork Lexile 770**
Published by Scholastic ISBN: 0545054745
2010 National Book Award Finalist

Seventeen-year-old Marcelo Sandoval hears music no one else can hear, part of the autism-like impairment no doctor has been able to identify. Marcelo is tagged with a “developmental disorder” because of his pervasive interest in God and all things religious and because he does not relate to others as expected. He’s always attended a special school where his differences have been protected. But the summer after his junior year, his father demands that Marcelo work in his law firm’s mailroom in order to experience “the real world.” There Marcelo meets Jasmine, a beautiful and surprising coworker, and Wendell, the son of another partner in the firm. Marcelo learns about competition and jealousy, anger and desire. But it’s a picture he finds in a file – a picture of a girl with half a face – that truly connects him with the real world: its suffering, its injustice, and what he can do to fight.

***The Maze Runner* by James Dashner Lexile: 770**
Published by Delacorte ISBN: 0385737947

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he’s not alone. When the lift’s doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls.

Just like Thomas, the Gladers don’t know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they’ve closed tight. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift.

Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers.

***The Monstrumologist* by Rick Yancey Lexile 990**
Published by Simon & Shuster ISBN: 1416984488
2010 Printz Award Silver Medalist

*These are the secrets I have kept. This is the trust I never betrayed. But he is dead now and has been for more than forty years, the one who gave me his trust, the one for whom I kept these secrets.
The one who saved me...and the one who cursed me.*

So begins the journal of Will Henry, orphaned assistant to Dr. Pellinore Warthrop, a man with a most unusual specialty: monstrumology, the study of monsters. In his time with the doctor, Will has met many a mysterious late-night visitor, and seen things he never imagined were real. But when a grave robber comes calling in the middle of the night with a gruesome find, he brings with him their most deadly case yet.

Critically acclaimed author Rick Yancey has written a gothic tour de force that explores the darkest heart of man and monster and asks the question: When does a man become the very thing he hunts?

***My Abandonment* by Peter Rock**
Published by Mariner Books ISBN: 0156035529

A thirteen-year-old girl and her father live in Forest Park, an enormous nature preserve in Portland, Oregon. They inhabit an elaborate cave shelter, wash in a nearby creek, store perishables at the water's edge, use a makeshift septic system, tend a garden, even keep a library of sorts. Once a week they go to the city to buy groceries and otherwise merge with the civilized world. But one small mistake allows a backcountry jogger to discover them, which derails their entire existence, ultimately provoking a deeper flight.

Inspired by a true story and told through the startlingly sincere voice of its young narrator, Caroline, *My Abandonment* is a riveting journey into life at the margins and a mesmerizing tale of survival and hope.

***Paper Towns*, by John Green Lexile 850**
Published by Speak ISBN: 014241493X
2009 Edgar Award Winner

Quentin—or “Q.” as everyone calls him—has known his neighbor, the fabulous Margo Roth Spiegelman, since they were two. Or has he? Q. can't help but wonder, when, a month before high-school graduation, she vanishes. Yes, there are echoes of Green's award-winning *Looking for Alaska* (2006): a lovely, eccentric girl; a mystery that begs to be solved by clever, quirky teens; and telling quotations (from *Leaves of Grass*, this time) beautifully integrated into the plot. Yet, if anything, the thematic stakes are higher here, as Green ponders the interconnectedness of imagination and perception, of mirrors and windows, of illusion and reality.

***Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater Lexile 740**
Published by Scholastic ISBN: 0545123267

For years, Grace has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house. One yellow-eyed wolf—her wolf—is a chilling presence she can't seem to live without. Meanwhile, Sam has lived two lives: In winter, the frozen woods, the protection of the pack, and the silent company of a fearless girl. In summer, a few precious months of being human . . . until the cold makes him shift back again.

Now, Grace meets a yellow-eyed boy whose familiarity takes her breath away. It's her wolf. It has to be. But as winter nears, Sam must fight to stay human—or risk losing himself, and Grace, forever.

***Tarzan of the Apes* by Edgar Rice Burroughs**
Published by Oxford University Press ISBN: 0199542880

Before Bella fell in love with Edward, there was the story of Tarzan and Jane.....

First published in 1914, *Tarzan of the Apes* is the first of several works by **Edgar Rice Burroughs** that delineate Tarzan's manifold and amazing feats. Despite his reputation as a pulp writer, Burroughs spins an exhilarating yarn detailing the laws of the jungle and the intricate dilemmas of the British gentry as he examines the struggle between heredity and environment.

11th and 12th Grade Titles

***A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge** by Josh Neufield**
Published by Knopf Doubleday ISBN: 0307378144

**This is a work of non-fiction and contains explicit language and descriptive first-person narrative accounts of the experiences of a diverse group of hurricane survivors.*

Cartoonist Josh Neufeld depicts seven extraordinary true stories of survival in the days leading up to and following Hurricane Katrina. Here we meet Denise, a counselor and social worker, and a sixth-generation New Orleanian; "The Doctor," a proud fixture of the French Quarter; Abbas and Darnell, two friends who face the storm from Abbas's family-run market; Kwame, a pastor's son just entering his senior year of high school; and the young couple Leo and Michelle, who both grew up in the city. Each is forced to confront the same wrenching decision—whether to stay or to flee.

As beautiful as it is poignant, *A.D.* presents a city in chaos and shines a bright, profoundly human light on the tragedies and triumphs that took place within it. (Mature language)

***Alice I Have Been* by Melanie Benjamin**
Published by Delacorte Press ISBN: 0385344139

Few works of literature are as universally beloved as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Now, in this spellbinding historical novel, we meet the young girl whose bright spirit sent her on an unforgettable trip down the rabbit hole—and the grown woman whose story is no less enthralling.

A love story and a literary mystery, *Alice I Have Been* brilliantly blends fact and fiction to capture the passionate spirit of a woman who was truly worthy of her fictional alter ego, in a world as captivating as the Wonderland only she could inspire.

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: Traitor to the Nation Volume One
by M.T. Anderson Lexile 1060 Published by Candlewick Press ISBN: 0763636797
2006 National Book Award Winner, Printz Award Silver Medalist

The story of the events leading up to the American Revolution and the Revolution through the eyes of young Octavian Butler - a child born a rightful prince of an African nation who is being raised with the best rational classical education by a group of Enlightenment-inspired scientists, philosophers, and artists. As Octavian grows up, he learns that he is actually a slave, who was "purchased" by the lead philosopher to conduct an experiment to see if there is inherent equality or inferiority among races. As the events leading to the American Revolution swirl around him and impact the people and life he knows, Octavian must question his place in the world and decide what the "freedom" the revolutionaries and politicians talk about means for his people.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope
by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
Published by HarperCollins ISBN: 0061730327

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a land withered by drought and hunger, a place where hope and opportunity were hard to find. But William had read about windmills and dreamed of building one that would bring his family electricity and running water, luxuries that only two percent of Malawians could afford. He used scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves to forge a crude machine that eventually powered four lights, complete with homemade switches and a circuit breaker made from nails and wire. A second windmill turned a water pump that could battle the drought and famine looming with every season.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those on an entire continent.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer
Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt ISBN: 0618711651

Jonathan Safran Foer emerged as one of the most original writers of his generation with his best-selling debut novel, *Everything Is Illuminated*. Now, with humor, tenderness, and awe, he confronts the traumas of our recent history. What he discovers is solace in that most human quality, imagination.

Meet Oskar Schell, an inventor, Francophile, tambourine player, Shakespearean actor, jeweler, pacifist, correspondent with Stephen Hawking and Ringo Starr. He is nine years old. And he is on an urgent, secret search through the five boroughs of New York. His mission is to find the lock that fits a mysterious key belonging to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11.

Going Bovine by Libba Bray Lexile: 680
Published by Delacorte Press ISBN: 0385733976
2010 Printz Award Winner

In this ambitious novel, 16-year-old Cameron is a slacker, and his somewhat dysfunctional family has just about given up on him when his diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jacob, "mad cow" disease, reunites them. The heart of the story, though, is a hallucinatory – or is it? – quest with many parallels to the hopeless but inspirational efforts of Don Quixote, about whom Cameron had been reading before his illness.

The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova
Published by Little, Brown and Co. ISBN: 0316067946

In this riveting debut of breathtaking scope, a young girl discovers her father's darkest secret and embarks on a harrowing journey across Europe to complete the quest he never could -- to find history's most legendary fiend: Dracula.

***Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri**
Published by Houghton Mifflin ISBN: 039592720X
Winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner Award

Maladies accurately diagnosed and misinterpreted, matters temporary and life changing, relationships in flux and unshakeable, unexpected blessings and sudden calamities, and the powers of survival – these are among the themes of Jhumpa Lahiri's extraordinary, Pulitzer Prize-winning debut collection of stories. Traveling from India to New England and back again, Lahiri charts the emotional voyages of characters seeking love beyond the barriers of nations, cultures, religions, and generations. Imbued with the sensual details of both Indian and American cultures, they also speak with universal eloquence and compassion to everyone who has ever felt like an outsider.

***Liar* by Justine Larbalestier Lexile 470**
Published by Bloomsbury ISBN: 1599903059

Micah will freely admit that she's a compulsive liar, but that may be the one honest thing she'll ever tell you. Over the years she's duped her classmates, her teachers, and even her parents, and she's always managed to stay one step ahead of her lies. That is, until her boyfriend dies under brutal circumstances and her dishonesty begins to catch up with her. But is it possible to tell the truth when lying comes as naturally as breathing? Taking readers deep into the psyche of a young woman who will say just about anything to convince them – and herself – that she's finally come clean, *Liar* is a bone-chilling thriller that will have readers see-sawing between truths and lies right up to the end. Honestly.

***Look me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's* by John Elder Robison**
Published by Thee Rivers Press ISBN: 0307396185

This memoir, by the older brother of writer Augusten Burroughs, is a witty, moving, and insightful glimpse into the life of a person living with an autistic spectrum disorder. Undiagnosed as a child, and failing in junior high, Robison was encouraged by some audiovisual teachers to fix their broken equipment, and he discovered a more comfortable world of machines and circuits, of muted colors, soft light, and mechanical perfection. This led to jobs (and many hilarious events) in worlds where strange behavior is seen as normal: developing intricate rocket-shooting guitars for the rock band Kiss and computerized toys for the Milton Bradley Company. Finally, at age 40, while Robison was running a successful business repairing high-end cars, a therapist correctly diagnosed him as having Asperger's. In the end, Robison succeeds in his goal of helping those who are struggling to grow up or live with Asperger's to see how it is not a disease but a way of being that needs no cure except understanding and encouragement from others.

***Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay**
Published by St. Martin's Griffin ISBN: 0312370849

Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours.

Paris, May 2002: On Vel' d'Hiv's 60th anniversary, journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past. Through her contemporary investigation, she stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her to Sarah. Julia finds herself compelled to retrace the girl's ordeal, from that terrible term in the Vel d'Hiv', to the camps, and beyond. As she probes into Sarah's past, she begins to question her own place in France, and to reevaluate her marriage and her life.

***Special Topics in Calamity Physics* by Marisha Pessl**
Published by Penguin ISBN: 0143112120

"Dazzling," (*People*) "Exuberant," (*Vogue*) "marvelously entertaining," (*The Dallas Morning News*) Marisha Pessl's mesmerizing debut has critics raving and heralds the arrival of a vibrant new voice in American fiction. At the center of this "cracking good read" is clever, deadpan Blue van Meer, who has a head full of literary, philosophical, scientific, and cinematic knowledge. But she could use some friends. Upon entering the elite St. Gallway School, she finds some – a clique of eccentrics known as the Bluebloods. One drowning and one hanging later, Blue finds herself puzzling out a byzantine murder mystery. Nabokov meets Donna Tartt (then invites the rest of the Western Canon to the party) in this novel – with "visual aids" drawn by the author – that has won over readers of all ages.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time
by Greg Mortenson, David Oliver Relin Lexile 1220
Published by Penguin ISBN: 0143038257

Some failures lead to phenomenal successes, and this American nurse's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, is one of them. Dangerously ill when he finished his climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Captivating and suspenseful, with engrossing accounts of both hostilities and unlikely friendships, this book will win many readers' hearts.