

## **Recommended\* Summer Reading for Incoming 12<sup>th</sup> Graders**

*Students can also select an appropriate book of their choice.*

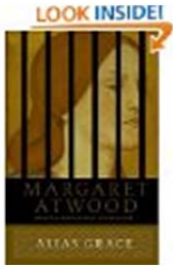
*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving  
*Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood  
*Behind the Mask* by Jane Resh Thomas  
*Charles and Emma*, by Deborah Heiligman  
*Child of the Dark Prophecy* by T.A. Barron  
*Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
*Daughter of Fortune* by Isabella Allende  
*Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey  
*Emma* by Jane Austen  
*Here Lies Arthur*, by Philip Reeve  
*How to Say Goodbye in Robot*, by Natalie Standiford  
*Leviathan*, by Scott Westerfeld  
*No Country for Old Men* by Cormack McCarthy  
*Reviving Ophelia* by Mary Pipher, Ph.D.  
*Rule of Four* by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason  
*Roma* by Steven Saylor  
*Sophie's Choice* by William Styron  
*Tales of a Madman Underground*, by John Barnes  
*The Andromeda Strain*, by Michael Crichton  
*The Book of Lost Things* by John Connelly  
*The Innocent Man* by John Grisham  
*The Fountainhead*, by Ayn Rand  
*The Mists of Avalon*, by Marian Zimmer Bradley  
*The Once and Future King* by T.H.White  
*The Stolen One* by Suzanna Crowley  
*The Tenth Circle* by Jodi Picoult  
*The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audry Niffenegger  
*Wake* by Lisa McMann  
*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig

**\*Although the majority of these novels are recommended by the American Library Association, we encourage parents and students to investigate and discuss book options together in order to make appropriate choices.**



*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving

Diminutive Owen Meany, the social outcast with the high, pinched voice, has an enormous influence on his friend Johnny Wheelwright--not least because the only baseball Owen ever hits causes the death of Johnny's mother. But as Johnny claims, "Owen gave me more than he ever took from me. . . . What did he ever say that wasn't right?" Spookily prescient, convinced that he is an instrument of God, Owen intimidates child and adult alike. Why Johnny "is a Christian because of Owen Meany" is the novel's central mystery but not its only one: Who, for instance, was Johnny's father?



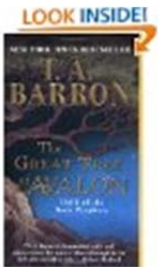
*Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood

In 1843, a 16-year-old Canadian housemaid named Grace Marks was tried for the murder of her employer and his mistress. The sensationalistic trial made headlines throughout the world, and the jury delivered a guilty verdict. Yet opinion remained fiercely divided about Marks--was she a spurned woman who had taken out her rage on two innocent victims, or was she an unwilling victim herself, caught up in a crime she was too young to understand? Such doubts persuaded the judges to commute her sentence to life imprisonment, and Marks spent the next 30 years in an assortment of jails and asylums, where she was often exhibited as a star attraction.



*Behind the Mask* by Jane Resh Thomas

Elizabeth I impressed herself more vividly in the memory of the world than any other monarch in the history of England. She successfully established and maintained power while refusing to bow to the wishes of those who believed no woman was fit to occupy the English throne. This book shatters the myths that surround Elizabeth I and allows readers an unprecedented view of the queen as a human being.



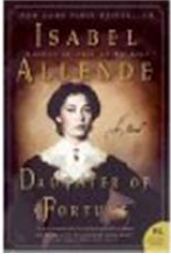
*Child of the Dark Prophecy* by T.A. Barron

The fate of Avalon rests in the hands of three people: Tamwyn, Elli, and Scree; however, one of them is the true heir of Merlin and the only one who can save Avalon, and one of them is the child of the Dark Prophecy, the person chosen to destroy it.



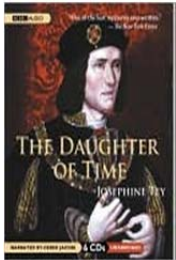
*Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

This investigation of an ancient murder takes on the quality of a hallucinatory exploration, a deep and groping search into the gathering darkness of human intentions for a truth that continually slithers away.



*Daughter of Fortune* by Isabella Allende

An orphan raised in Valparaíso, Chile, by a Victorian spinster and her rigid brother, young, vivacious Eliza Sommers follows her lover to California during the Gold Rush of 1849. She enters a rough-and-tumble world whose newly arrived inhabitants are driven mad by gold fever. With the help of her good friend and savior, the Chinese doctor Tao Chi'en, Eliza moves freely in a society of single men and prostitutes, creating an unconventional but independent life for herself. The young Chilean's search for her elusive lover gradually turns into another kind of journey, and by the time she finally hears news of him, Eliza must decide who her true love really is.



*Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey

Josephine Tey is often referred to as the mystery writer for people who don't like mysteries. Her skills at character development and mood setting, and her tendency to focus on themes not usually touched upon by mystery writers, have earned her a vast and appreciative audience. In *Daughter of Time*, Tey focuses on the legend of Richard III, the evil hunchback of British history accused of murdering his young nephews. While at a London hospital recuperating from a fall, Inspector Alan Grant becomes fascinated by a portrait of King Richard. A student of human faces, Grant cannot believe that the man in the picture would kill his own nephews. With an American researcher's help, Grant delves into his country's history to discover just what kind of man Richard Plantagenet was and who *really* killed the little princess.



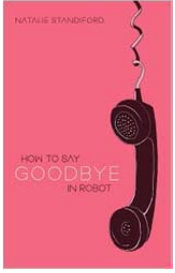
*Emma* by Jane Austen

*Emma* is the story of the eponymous Miss Woodhouse who, having lost her close companion Anne Taylor to marriage, sets out on an ill-fated career of match-making in the town of Highbury. Taking as her subject the pretty but dreary Harriet Smith, she manages to cause misunderstandings with every new tactic she employs. Though precious and spoilt, Emma is charming to all around her and so it takes her some time to learn her lesson and profit from spending less time worrying about how other people should live their lives.



*Here Lies Arthur*, by Philip Reeve

Gwynna is just a girl who is forced to run when her village is attacked and burns to the ground. To her horror, she is discovered in the wood. But it is Myrddin the bard who has found her, a traveler and spinner of tales. He agrees to protect Gwynna if she will agree to be bound in service to him. Gwynna is frightened but intrigued-and says yes-for this Myrddin serves the young, rough, and powerful Arthur. In the course of their travels, Myrddin transforms Gwynna into the mysterious Lady of the Lake, a boy warrior, and a spy. It is part of a plot to transform Arthur from the leader of a ragtag war band into King Arthur, the greatest hero of all time. If Gwynna and Myrddin's trickery is discovered, what will become of Gwynna? Worse, what will become of Arthur? Only the endless battling, the mighty belief of men, and the sheer cunning of one remarkable girl will tell.



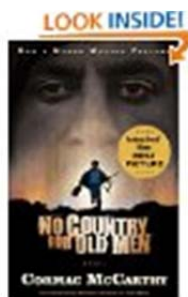
*How to Say Goodbye in Robot*, by Natalie Standiford

New to town, Beatrice is expecting her new best friend to be one of the girls she meets on the first day. But instead, the alphabet conspires to seat her next to Jonah, aka Ghost Boy, a quiet loner who hasn't made a new friend since third grade. Something about him, though, gets to Bea, and soon they form an unexpected friendship. It's not romance, exactly - but it's definitely love. Still, Bea can't quite dispel Jonah's gloom and doom - and as she finds out his family history, she understands why. Can Bea help Jonah? Or is he destined to vanish?



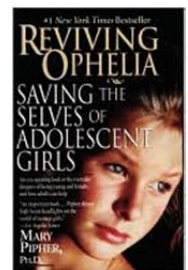
*Leviathan*, by Scott Westerfeld

The year is 1914, and war is imminent, upon the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife. But aside from that, all is different in this alternate continuum. The Germans and their allies, known as "Clankers," have perfected super-mechanized craft of war. The British, or "Darwinists," rely on bioengineering: aerial whales, souped-up tiger draft beasts, and so forth. Garnering our attention among the Clankers is Prince Alek, only child of Franz and commoner Sophie, on the run from the Austrian Emperor. Among the Brits, Deryn, a young girl masquerading as a male midshipman in the imperial airforce. Their personalities are fierce and real, their inevitable meeting staged nicely and with zest.



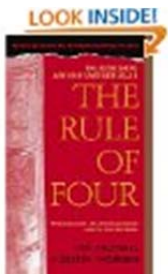
*No Country for Old Men* by Cormack McCarthy

A mesmerizing modern-day western set in southwest Texas. Llewelyn Moss, hunting antelope near the Rio Grande, stumbles across several dead men, a bunch of heroin, and 2.4 million dollars. The bulk of the novel is a gripping man-on-the run sequence.



*Reviving Ophelia* by Mary Pipher, Ph.D.

In *Reviving Ophelia*, Dr. Mary Pipher takes the reader through riveting accounts of the trials, successes, and losses experienced by adolescent girls. A clinical psychologist who has treated girls for more than 20 years, Pipher describes the therapeutic process through which these accounts unfold. More importantly, she draws our attention to what adolescent girls of our time have to say about their relationships, their lives, and their futures.



*Rule of Four* by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason

Caldwell and Thomason's intriguing intellectual suspense novel stars four brainy roommates at Princeton, two of whom have links to a mysterious 15th-century manuscript, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*. This rare text (a real book) contains embedded codes revealing the location of a buried Roman treasure. The four seniors are Tom Sullivan, Paul Harris, Charlie Freeman and Gil Rankin. Tom, the narrator, is the son of a Renaissance scholar who spent his life studying the ancient book, "an encyclopedia masquerading as a novel, a dissertation on everything from architecture to zoology." The manuscript is also an endless source of fascination for Paul, who sees it as "a siren, a fetching song on a distant shore, all claws and clutches in person. You court her at your risk."



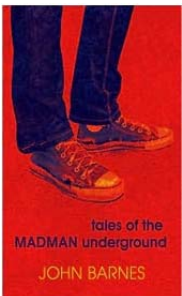
*Roma* by Steven Saylor

*Roma* is a sprawling novel that uses two families to tell the history of Rome from its beginnings in 100 B.C. as a stop on the salt trade to the founding of the empire.



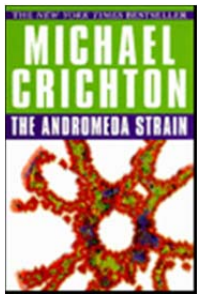
*Sophie's Choice* by William Styron

Stingo has been fired from his low-level reader's job at the publisher McGraw Hill and has moved into a cheap apartment building in Brooklyn, where he hopes to devote some months to his writing. While he is working on his novel, he is drawn into the lives of the lovers Nathan Landau and Sophie Zawistowska, fellow inhabitants of the building, who are involved in an intense and difficult relationship. Sophie is a beautiful, Polish-Catholic survivor of the concentration camps of World War II, and Nathan is a Jewish-American - and, purportedly, a genius.



*Tales of a Madman Underground*, by John Barnes

September 1973: The beginning of Karl Shoemaker's senior year in stifling Lightsburg, Ohio. For years, Karl's been part of "the Madman Underground"-kids forced to attend group therapy during school. Karl has decided that he is going to get out of the Madman Underground for good. He is going to act-and be-Normal. But Normal, of course, is relative. Karl has two after-school jobs, one dead father, one seriously unhinged drunk mother...and a huge attitude. Welcome to a gritty, uncensored roller-coaster ride, narrated by the singular Karl Shoemaker.



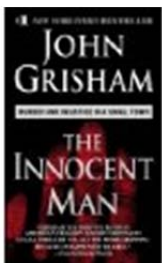
*The Andromeda Strain*, by Michael Crichton

The United States government is given a warning by the pre-eminent biophysicists in the country: current sterilization procedures applied to returning space probes may be inadequate to guarantee uncontaminated re-entry to the atmosphere. Two years later, seventeen satellites are sent into the outer fringes of space to "collect organisms and dust for study." One of them falls to earth, landing in a desolate area of Arizona. Twelve miles from the landing site, in the town of Piedmont, a shocking discovery is made: the streets are littered with the dead bodies of the town's inhabitants, as if they dropped dead in their tracks. The terror has begun . . .



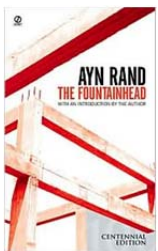
*The Book of Lost Things* by John Connolly

David is thrust into a realm where eternal stories and fairy tales assume an often gruesome reality. Books are the magic that speak to David, whose mother has died at the start of WWII after a long debilitating illness. His father remarries, and soon his stepmother is pregnant with yet another interloper who will threaten David's place in his father's life. When a portal to another world opens in time-honored fashion, David enters a land of beasts and monsters where he must undertake a quest if he is to earn his way back out.



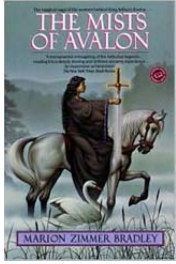
*The Innocent Man* by John Grisham

In the major league draft of 1971, the first player chosen from the State of Oklahoma was Ron Williamson. When he signed with the Oakland A's, he said goodbye to his hometown of Ada and left to pursue his dreams of big league glory. Six years later he was back, his dreams broken by a bad arm and bad habits—drinking, drugs, and women. He began to show signs of mental illness. Unable to keep a job, he moved in with his mother and slept twenty hours a day on her sofa. In 1982, a 21-year-old cocktail waitress in Ada named Debra Sue Carter was raped and murdered, and for five years the police could not solve the crime. For reasons that were never clear, they suspected Ron Williamson and his friend Dennis Fritz. The two were finally arrested in 1987 and charged with capital murder.



*The Fountainhead*, by Ayn Rand

The Fountainhead--containing Ayn Rand's daringly original literary vision with the seeds of her groundbreaking philosophy, Objectivism--won immediate worldwide acclaim. This instant classic is the story of an intransigent young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him.



*The Mists of Avalon*, by Marian Zimmer Bradley

Even readers who don't normally enjoy Arthurian legends will love this version, a retelling from the point of view of the women behind the throne. Morgaine (more commonly known as Morgan Le Fay) and Gwenhwyfar (a Welsh spelling of Guinevere) struggle for power, using Arthur as a way to score points and promote their respective worldviews. *The Mists of Avalon's* Camelot politics and intrigue take place at a time when Christianity is taking over the island-nation of Britain.



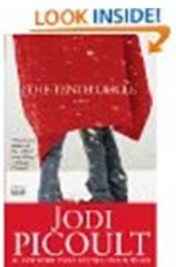
*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White

The whole world knows and loves this book. It is the magical epic of King Arthur and his shining Camelot; of Merlin and Owl and Guinevere; of beasts who talk and men who fly, of wizardry and war. It is the book of all things lost and wonderful and sad. It is the fantasy masterpiece by which all others are judged.



*The Stolen One* by Suzanna Crowley

Kat's true identity is a secret, even from her. All she has ever known are Grace and Anna and their small village. Kat wants more—more than hours spent embroidering finery for wealthy ladies and more than Christian, the gentle young farmer courting her. But there are wolves outside, Grace warns. Waiting, with their eyes glowing in the dark . . . and Grace has given Kat safety and a home when no one else would. Then a stranger appears in their cottage, bringing the mystery of Kat's birth with her. In one night, Kat's destiny finds her: She will leave. She will journey to London, and her skill with the needle will attract the notice of the magnificent Queen Elizabeth—and of the wolves of the court. She will discover what Grace would never tell her.



*The Tenth Circle* by Jodi Picoult

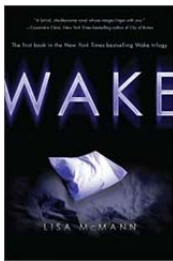
Trixie Stone is an imaginative, perceptive 14 year old whose life begins to unravel when Jason Underhill, Bethel High's star hockey player, breaks up with her, leaving a void that can only be filled by the blood spilled during shameful self-mutilations in the girls' bathroom. While Trixie's dad Daniel notices his daughter's recent change in demeanor, he turns a blind eye, just as he does to the obvious affair his wife Laura, a college professor, is barely trying to conceal. When Trixie gets raped at a friend's party, Daniel and Laura are forced to deal not only with the consequences of their daughter's physical and emotional trauma, but with their own transgressions as well. For Daniel, that means reflecting on a childhood spent as the only white kid in a native Alaskan village, where isolation and loneliness turned him into a recluse, only to be born again after falling in love with his wife. Laura, who blames her family's unraveling on her selfish affair, must decide how to reconcile her personal desires with her loved ones' needs.



### *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audry Niffenegger

A dazzling novel in the most untraditional fashion, this is the remarkable story of Henry DeTamble, a dashing, adventuresome librarian who travels involuntarily through time, and Clare Abshire, an artist whose life takes a natural sequential course. Henry and Clare's passionate love affair endures across a sea of time and captures the two lovers in an impossibly romantic trap, and it is Audrey Niffenegger's cinematic storytelling that makes the novel's unconventional chronology so vibrantly triumphant. An enchanting debut and a spellbinding tale of fate and belief in the bonds of love, *The Time Traveler's Wife* is destined to captivate readers for years to

come.



### *Wake* by Lisa McMann

For seventeen-year-old Janie, getting sucked into other people's dreams is getting old. Especially the falling dreams, the naked-but-nobody-notices dreams, and the sex-crazed dreams. Janie's seen enough fantasy booty to last her a lifetime. She can't tell anybody about what she does -- they'd never believe her, or worse, they'd think she's a freak. So Janie lives on the fringe, cursed with an ability she doesn't want and can't control. Then she falls into a gruesome nightmare, one that chills

her to the bone. For the first time, Janie is more than a witness to someone else's twisted psyche. She is a participant....



### *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig

Arguably one of the most profoundly important essays ever written on the nature and significance of "quality, it is set as a story of a cross-country trip on a motorcycle by a father and son through 2,000 years of Western philosophy.