

## Summer Reading Lists

So you're ready for summer reading but aren't sure where to start? You are in luck! We have two different reading suggestion lists when it comes to books.

The first source of books is from the DeKalb Teacher-Librarians Advocacy Council & may be found on the DeKalb County School District website. DCSD's school librarians have produced a list of suggested authors for select grade levels. The second source of books is a list comprised by DHS English teachers. This list includes the title, the author, the publication year, and a brief synopsis.

The best thing about summer reading is that you get to read what you want, when you want, where you want, for as long as you want. Summertime is all about relaxing, having fun, and reading. So, read and have fun while doing it!

*DeKalb County School District strives to serve a widely diverse population with varied beliefs and educational needs. We understand that not all recommended authors/books will appeal to all students and families, and we encourage parents to be involved in their children's reading by helping them make appropriate selections they will enjoy.*

### **LIST ONE:**

Recommended Authors for High Schools: <http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/educational-media/summer-reading-lists>

You may also want to consider the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) book awards, which includes the Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature, as well as the Outstanding Books for the College Bound lists: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/bookawards/booklists/members>

Students may also choose to read the Georgia Peach Book Award Nominees for the 2015-16 school year, which will be used in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl during the coming year: <http://georgiapeachaward.org/>

Please see the Dunwoody High School Library Media Center Readers' Corner for more suggestions: <http://www.dunwoodyhs.dekalb.k12.ga.us/TheReadersCorner.aspx>

### **LIST TWO:**

Listed below is a list of book titles, by author, publication date, and a brief synopsis:

#### **The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak (2006)**

A young girl living in Nazi Germany during World War II steals books and shares them with neighbors as well as with the Jewish refugee hiding in her foster family's basement.

#### **The Poisonwood Bible, by Barbara Kingsolver (1998)**

A Baptist family travels to the Belgian Congo in 1959 for missionary work, kicking off this sprawling story told over three decades in Africa.

**The Things They Carried, by Tim O'Brien (1990)**

Vietnam veteran O'Brien based this stirring collection of intertwined short stories on his own war experience.

**The Joy Luck Club, by Amy Tan (1989)**

In San Francisco, a close-knit group of women — four Chinese immigrants and their American-born daughters — gathers for a regular game of mah-jongg over a span of 40 years.

**The Lovely Bones, by Alice Sebold (2002)**

A murdered teenager watches from the afterlife as her family struggles to deal with her death and her father hunts for her killer.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, by Mark Haddon (2003)**

The novel's 15-year-old narrator with an autism spectrum condition is also its protagonist, searching to unravel the mysterious death of a neighborhood pup.

**The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini (2003)**

A young boy in Kabul lives through a tumultuous period in Afghan history, from the fall of the monarchy to the rise of the Taliban. Hosseini's follow-up, 2007's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, is also a popular summer reading list choice.

**The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins (2008)**

The dystopian, futuristic tale of a 16-year-old girl competing in a televised battle to the death in what was once North America.

**Blink, by Malcolm Gladwell (2005)**

The pop scientist examines the wisdom of spontaneous decisions.

**All the Pretty Horses, by Cormac McCarthy (1992)**

The first novel in McCarthy's Border Trilogy follows a young Texas cowboy who drifts across the Mexican border after his father's death.

**Friday Night Lights, by H.G. Bissinger (1990)**

A year in the life of the Permian Panthers high school football team illuminates the lives of residents in a tiny, football-obsessed Texas town.

**Fast Food Nation, by Eric Schlosser (2003)**

An unflinching piece of long-form investigative journalism examines the practices and proliferation of the American fast food industry.

**Wintergirls, by Laurie Halse Anderson (2009)**

A teenage girl comes to terms with her eating disorder and the resulting strained relationships with family and friends after her best friend dies of bulimia.

**The Help, by Kathryn Stockett (2009)**

Racial fissures of the early 1960s in the Deep South are revealed and explored in this story of African American maids in Mississippi and the privileged white women for whom they work.

**Will Grayson, Will Grayson, by John Green and David Levithan (2010)**

This novel of two identically named teenagers living parallel, briefly intertwining lives explores themes of identity, sexuality and friendship.

**Into the Wild, by Jon Krakauer (1996)**

The true story of Christopher McCandless, an idealistic young college grad who hiked on his own into the frozen Alaskan wilderness, with deadly consequences.

**Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen (2006)**

An elderly man living out his days in a nursing home recalls his life as a veterinarian for a traveling circus in a story about the human heart, and the bond it can develop with animals and people alike.

**Life of Pi, by Yann Martel (2001)**

After a cargo ship full of zoo animals sinks at sea, an Indian boy is trapped on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger — or is he? A meditation on, among other things, religion and spirituality and how they fit into modern life. Winner of the 2002 Booker Prize.

**The Secret Life of Bees, by Sue Monk Kidd (2002)**

During the civil rights movement of the mid-'60s, a young white Southern girl goes on the lam with her family's African American housekeeper, hoping to solve the mystery of the mother who abandoned her.

**Room, by Emma Donoghue (2010)**

A woman and her 5-year-old son are held captive in a tiny room in which young Jack, who narrates the story, has lived his entire life.

**Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (1937)**

Parents should definitely read along with their child on account of the novel's mature content.

**1984 by George Orwell (1949)**

Big Brother is watching, but is he reading?

**Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (1953)**

Books are illegal. Firemen burn them.

**Great Expectations by Charles Dickens (1860)**

Pip goes from poor to rich to snob in just a little under 500 pages.

**Lord of the Flies by William Golding (1954)**

A plane crashes. The survivors, exclusively children, get a little out of control.

**The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane (1895)**

Crane's realistic account of the Civil War has been a staple in American Lit classes for years.

**To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (1960)**

Explore the dynamics of race from the eyes of a young girl in the South