

**Vestavia Hills High School
Suggested Summer Reading 2009**

Fiction

- Agee, James. A Death in the Family. 1957.
Allison, Dorothy. Bastard Out of Carolina. 1992.
Alvarez, Julia. In the Time of Butterflies. 1994.
Anaya, Rudolfo. Bless Me, Ultima. 1972.
Atwood, Margaret. The Handmaid's Tale. 1986.
Butler, Octavia. Parable of the Sower. 1993.
Card, Orson Scott. Ender's Game. 1985.
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. Crime and Punishment. 1866.
Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man. 1952.
Emecheta, Buchi. Bride Price. 1976.
Frazier, Charles. Cold Mountain. 1997.
Gaines, Ernest. A Lesson Before Dying. 1993.
Gardner, John. Grendel. 1971.
Gibbons, Kaye. Ellen Foster. 1987.
Heller, Joseph. Catch-22. 1961.
Hesse, Hermann. Siddhartha. 1951.
Huxley, Aldous. Brave New World. 1932.
Keneally, Thomas. Schindler's List. 1982.
Kidd, Sue Monk. The Secret Life of Bees. 2003.
King, Laurie R. The Beekeeper's Apprentice, or, on the Segregation of the Queen. 1994.
Kosinski, Jerzy. Painted Bird. 1965.
LeGuin, Ursula. The Left Hand of Darkness. 1969.
McCammon, Robert. Boy's Life. 1992.
McCullers, Carson. The Member of the Wedding. 1946.
McKinley, Robin. Beauty. 1978.
Malamud, Bernard. The Fixer. 1966.
Markandaya, Kamala. Nectar In A Sieve. 1954.
Mason, Bobbi Ann. In Country. 1985.
Mori, Kyoko. Shizuko's Daughter. 1993.
Morrison, Toni. Beloved. 1987.
O'Connor, Flannery. Everything That Rises Must Converge. 1965.
Power, Susan. The Grass Dancer. 1994.
Shaara, Michael. Killer Angels. 1974.
Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath. 1939.
Wright, Richard. Native Son. 1940.
Yolen, Jane. Briar Rose. 1992.

Humanities

- Bissinger, H.G. Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream
- Brassai. Brassai: Letters to My Parents.
- Card, Orson Scott. Sarah
- Chevalier, Tracy. Girl with a Pearl Earring.
- Corio, David. The Black Chord.
- Coulton, Larry. Counting Coup: A True Story of Basketball & Honor on the Little Big Horn.
- Crutcher, Chris. Whale Talk.
- Franck, Frederick (ed.) What Does It Mean to be Human?
- Garfunkel, Trudy. On Wings of Joy: The Story of Ballet from the 16th Century to Today.
- Goldberg, Myla. Bee Season.
- Greenberg, Jan (ed.) Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by Twentieth Century American Art.
- Hedges, Chris. War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning.
- Howe, Peter. Shooting Under Fire: The World of the War Photographer.
- King, Ross. Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture.
- Perry, John. Encyclopedia of Acting Techniques.
- Sandler, Martin W. Photography: An Illustrated History.

Social Sciences

- Albom, Mitch. Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson.
- Best, Joel. Damned Lies and Statistics:
- Conover, Ted. Newjack, Guarding Sing Sing.
- Corwin, Miles. And Still We Rise: The Trials and Triumphs of Twelve...
- Dershowitz, Alan M. Why Terrorism Works: Understanding the Threat, Responding to the Challenge.
- Diamond, Jared. Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies.
- Doyle, William. An American Insurrection: The Battle of Oxford, Mississippi, 1962.
- Ehrenreich, Barbara. Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America.
- Haddon, Mark. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.
- Katz, Jon. Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho.
- Kidder, Tracy. Mountains beyond Mountains.
- Latifa [pseud.]. My Forbidden Face: Growing Up Under the Taliban; A Young Woman's Story.
- Schlosser, Eric. Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal.
- Simon, Rachel. Riding the Bus with My Sister: A True Life Journey.
- Steinberg, Jacques. The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College.
- Wheelan, Charles. Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science.

Science and Technology

- Bradshaw, Gillian. The Sand-Reckoner
- Brown, David. Inventing Modern America: From the Microwave to the Mouse.
- Bryson, Bill. A Short History of Nearly Everything
- Fagan, Brian. The Little Ice Age: How Climate Made History, 1300-1850.
- Feynman, Richard. What Do You Care What People Think? Further Adventures of a Curious Character.
- Flannery, Sarah. In Code: A Mathematical Journey.
- Hawking, Steven. The Universe in a Nutshell.
- Horvitz, Leslie A. Eureka!: Scientific Breakthroughs That Changed the World.
- Lambrech, Bill. Dinner at the New Gene Café: How Genetic Engineering Is Changing What We Eat, How We Live, and the Global Politics of Food.
- Livio, Mario. The Golden Ratio: The Story of Phi, the World's Most Astonishing Number.
- Nash, Madeline. El Nino: Unlocking the Secrets of the Master Weather Maker.
- Preston, Richard. The Demon in the Freezer: A True Story.
- Rigden, John S. Hydrogen: The Essential Element.
- Stark, Peter. Last Breath: Cautionary Tales from the Limits of Human Endurance.

History

- Alexander, Caroline. The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition.
- Aronson, Marc. Witch Hunt: Mysteries of the Salem Witch Trials.
- Berg, A. Scott. Lindbergh.
- Geras, Adele. Troy.
- Glancy, Diane. Stone Heart: A Novel of Sacajawea.
- Hansen, Drew D. The Dream: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech That Inspired a Nation.
- Marrin, Albert. Terror of the Spanish Main, Sir Henry Morgan and His Buccaneers.
- Rogasky, Barbara. Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust.
- Starkey, David. Six Wives: The Queens of Henry VIII.
- Winchester, Simon. Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded: August 27, 1883.

****Note:** VHHS students also enjoy reading books by such authors as the following: Tom Clancy, John Grisham, Pat Conroy, Stephen King, Patricia Cornwall, Mary Higgins Clark, Dan Brown, J.K. Rowling, Orson Scott Card, and David Baldacci.