

Summer Reading Program

For Students Entering
Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth
Grades



Division of Academic Services
Department of Humanities



Paterson Public Schools
2017 High School Summer Reading Assignment

(Students entering Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh or Twelfth Grades)

Dear Parents/Students,

All K-12 students attending the Paterson Public Schools during the 2016-2017 school year will have the opportunity to select books that they are interested in and motivated to read during the summer. Our aim is to keep students connected to reading habits and comprehension skills that were introduced during the school year, with the ultimate goal of building a love for reading within your child.

As our mission at the Paterson Public Schools is to prepare each student for success in college and a career, students entering grades 9-12 in September are required to read **at least two** novels, one of which should be from the attached grade-level list and complete an essay in response to one of the novels selected. You will notice that the titles show the lexile level (readability level) for each text, beginning with least complex to most complex. Your child should be able to read and understand all of the words on any given page in the text, with no more than 5 errors, for the text to be at an appropriate level. Further, each student is expected to complete a reading log throughout the novel to ensure active reading. Both the reading log and project should be sent to school with your son/daughter on their first day of school in September, as they will be used as part of their first marking period grade.

Please join the High School English department in providing support and encouragement to make reading an important part of your child's summer. It is encouraged that you speak to your child about this important requirement and ensure access to the book he or she is required to read. At times throughout the summer, check with your child to make certain he or she is reading the novel. Finally, please be sure that your child completes the reading log and project prior to their first day of school in September.

This summer we have partnered with the Paterson Public Library to ensure that all students have books available to read. We encourage you to visit one of the branches for the Paterson Public Library for assistance in selecting books that will interest your child. While some of the books are available at local public libraries and online for free, others can be purchased at Barnes & Noble or at reduced prices at Amazon.com.

For more detailed information, please review the packet to best prepare your child for success in their reading journey or visit our district website www.paterson.k12.nj.us.

Thank you for your cooperation in this worthwhile endeavor. Wishing you a wonderful summer filled with reading.



Summer Reading List

Incoming 9th grade students:

The Color Purple by Alice Walker (historical fiction) Lexile: 670

Letters to each other tell the story of two sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the South.

Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia (science fiction) Lexile: 670

In a town where little has changed since the Civil War, Ethan is drawn to Lena, with whom he shares a psychic connection and whose family hides a secret.

If I Stay by Gayle Forman (fiction) Lexile: 830

While in a coma following a horrific automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom (non-fiction) Lexile: 830

This book is a chronicle of the time the author spent with his mentor, his former college professor, in the last months of the older man's life. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London (adventure fiction) Lexile: 1080

Buck, a dog that has been forced into the harsh life of a sled dog, befriends a man seeking his fortune in the Klondike gold fields, and must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or obey his instinct to join the wolves.

Born on a Blue Day by Daniel Tammet (biography) Lexile: 1170

Daniel Tammet, an autistic savant, offers an inside look at his life, describing how his rare condition, which gives him incredible mental powers and a compulsive need for order and routine, has influenced every aspect of his life and what challenges he has faced while trying to be independent.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie (mystery) Lexile: 570

Ten strangers, each with a dark secret, are lured to a mansion on an uninhabited island and killed off one by one.

*Text available online at www.archive.org

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll (fantasy) Lexile: 580

A girl named Alice falls through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar creatures.

*Text available online at www.gutenberg.org

Incoming 10th grade students:

Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson (fiction) Lexile: 680

After finally getting noticed by someone other than bullies and his ever-angry father, Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

Dead Beautiful by Yvonne Woon (science fiction) Lexile: 730

After her parents die under mysterious circumstances, sixteen-year-old Renee is sent from California to an old-fashioned boarding school in Maine, where she meets a fellow student to whom she seems strangely connected.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (historical fiction) Lexile: 730

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Buried Onions by Gary Soto (fiction) Lexile: 850

When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California.

Death Be Not Proud by John Gunther (non-fiction/memoir) Lexile: 1060

This true story relates a father's recollection of his son's courageous and spirited battle against the brain tumor that would take his life at the age of seventeen.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith (coming of age) Lexile: 810

Eleven-year-old Francie Nolan lives in the Williamsburg tenement neighborhood of Brooklyn with her ten-year-old brother Cornelius and their parents, Johnny and Katie. Francie relies on her imagination and her love of reading to provide a temporary escape from the poverty that defines her daily existence.

*Text available online at <http://gnauss.hrsbteachers.ednet.ns.ca/documents>

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway (war fiction) Lexile: 730

Lieutenant Frederic Henry is a young American ambulance driver serving in the Italian army during World War I. Henry meets Catherine Barkley, an English nurse's aide at the nearby British hospital and the love interest of his friend Rinaldi. Rinaldi, however, quickly fades from the picture as Catherine and Henry become involved in an elaborate game of seduction.

*Text available online at www.archive.org

Incoming 11th grade students:

***Night* by Elie Wiesel (autobiography) Lexile: 570**

Night is a terrifying account of the Nazi death-camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family, his innocence, and his god. Penetrating and powerful, as personal as *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Night* awakens the shocking memory of evil at its absolute and carries with it the unforgettable message that this horror must never be allowed to happen again.

***What Happened to Goodbye* by Sarah Dessen (fiction) Lexile: 760**

Seventeen-year-old Mclean begins to lose sight of who she really is after she tries to reinvent herself at each school she attends after her parents' divorce and her father moves her from town to town.

***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett (fiction) Lexile: 730**

Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend, and a recently graduated white woman, team up for a clandestine project.

***The Uglies* by Scott Westerfield (science fiction) Lexile: 770**

Shay, who has little recollection of her past from before she underwent surgery to become a Pretty, decides to fight back against the status quo, the mysterious Special Circumstances, and her best friend.

***The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston (non-fiction/memoir) Lexile: 880**

This book distills the dire lessons of a mother's mesmerizing "talk-story" tales of a China where girls are worthless, tradition is exalted, and only a strong, wily woman can scratch her way upward.

***Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult (fiction) Lexile: 890**

Sterling is an ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens--until the day its complacency is shattered by an act of violence. Josie Cormier, the daughter of the judge sitting on the case, should be the state's best witness, but she can't remember what happened before her very own eyes--or can she? As the trial progresses, fault lines between the high school and the adult community begin to show--destroying the closest of friendships and families.

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte (gothic romance) Lexile: 880**

Against a background of English moors in the eighteenth century, the lives of two families become intertwined through marriage, passion, and the dominating force of a man called Heathcliff.

****The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (mystery) Lexile: 840**

Sherlock Holmes and Watson set out to solve the mystery that had haunted the Baskerville family for years and had recently occurred again.

****Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison (realistic fiction) Lexile: 950**

The story of a young, college-educated black man struggling to survive and succeed in a racially divided society that refuses to see him as a human being.

*Text is available online at www.gutenberg.org

Incoming 12th grade students:

Black Boy by Richard Wright (autobiography) Lexile: 950

Black Boy is Richard Wright's powerful account of his journey from innocence to experience in the Jim Crow South. It is at once an unashamed confession and a profound indictment – a poignant and disturbing record of social injustice and human suffering.

The Invisible Man by H.G. Wells (science fiction) Lexile: 980

An atmosphere of ever-increasing suspense begins with the arrival of a mysterious stranger at an English village inn and builds relentlessly to the stark terror of a victim pursued by a maniacal invisible man.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner (science fiction) Lexile: 770

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier (mystery) Lexile: 880

Set in Monte Carlo, the heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady's maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives--presenting her with a lingering evil that threatens to destroy their marriage from beyond the grave.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles (fiction) Lexile: 1110

Two adolescents come to understand each other and themselves after a tragic accident.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin (fiction) Lexile: 960

This book tells of a woman's abandonment of her family, her seduction, and her awakening to desires and passions that threaten to consume her.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (non-fiction/memoir) Lexile: 1010

Constantly short on cash and food, the Walls family moves around the country frequently and tries to re-settle. Though the family is dysfunctional, the memoir communicates itself without condemning either of the Walls parents. Humor frequently imbues the work with a light-spirited tone.

****Brave New World*** by Aldous Huxley (science fiction) Lexile: 950

The story opens in London, nearly six hundred years in the future. Human life has been almost entirely industrialized — controlled by a few people at the top of a World State.

****Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stephenson (adventure) Lexile: 1100

Jim Hawkins is a young boy who lives at his parents' inn, the Admiral Benbow, near Bristol, England, in the eighteenth century. An old sea captain named Billy Bones dies in the inn after being presented with a black spot, or official pirate verdict of guilt or judgment. Jim is stirred to action by the spot and its mysterious, accurate warning of Billy's death. Hastily, Jim and his mother unlock Billy's sea chest, finding a logbook and map inside which is wanted to by other pirates in search of the treasure.

*Text is available online at www.archive.org

Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth Grade Summer Reading Project

Choose one of the following prompts. Write a well-constructed and cohesive five paragraph essay responding to the prompt and basing your response on the book you chose from the grade level title list. Identify the book and author in the first paragraph.

This essay must include an introduction, body and conclusion. Be sure to utilize specific examples from the book to support a clear thesis statement. **You must include at least three direct quotations from the book in your essay as part of your evidence**, citing the page number on which each was found.

❖ Prompt 1

Write an essay in which you analyze how the character's thoughts and actions reveal his/her personality.

-Consider how the main character in your novel reacts to the incidents that occur.

-Identify the point of view used by the author and how it helps develop the author's message or theme. (first person, second person, third person, omniscient narrator)

❖ Prompt 2

Write an essay in which you identify the theme in the novel and how the author develops the theme over the course of the text.

-How does the author use the characters, setting, or literary devices to develop their theme or message.

❖ Prompt 3 (if you have chosen one of the informational texts listed below you are required to respond to this prompt: 9th grade – *Born on a Blue Day*, 10th grade – *Death be not Proud*, 11th grade – *The Woman Warrior*, 12th grade – *The Glass Castle*)

Often in works of literary non-fiction the author describes something positive that can emerge from their difficult situation.

-Write an essay in which you analyze how the author's experience transforms his/her difficult situation into something positive.

Paterson Public Library



Locations and Hours:

Danforth (Main) Library

250 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07501

(973)321-1223

Hours: Monday through Thursday 9-8, Friday and Saturday 9-5

Southside Branch Library

930 Main Street, Paterson, NJ 07503

(973)357-3020

Hours: Monday noon-8, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9-5

Totowa Branch Library

405 Union Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07502

(973)942-7198

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9-5, Tuesday noon-8

Northside Branch Library

Christopher Hope Center 60 Temple Street, Paterson, NJ 07522

(973)321-1309

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9-5, Wednesday noon-8