

9th Grade Summer Reading List

In accordance with the Rockport High School mission statement and in connection with the Rockport Public Library Community Reading Program, the Rockport High School Summer Reading List aims to promote strong, life-long reading habits.

We believe that a summer reading program offers students opportunities for achievement in the following areas:

- developing proficiencies in reading and writing
- engaging in analytical thinking
- exploring diversity through literature
- sharing experiences of a text with peers
- creating a community of readers

The following summer reading list is designed to enrich the present Rockport High School curricula as well as inspire and challenge students through diverse genres and reading levels.

Students must select one book-length work from the list according to the grade they will enter in the fall, plus an additional book-length work of their choice. Students will be assessed in the fall.

The Martian Chronicles Ray Bradbury Challenging Science fiction
The first Earth people to attempt the colonization of Mars try to build their new world in the image of the civilization they left behind.

The Wizard of Earth Sea Ursula K. Le Guin Moderate Fantasy
A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

Into Thin Air Jon Krakauer Moderate Non-fiction
The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

The Bean Trees Barbara Kingsolver Moderate Fiction
Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.

*Eleven Seconds** Travis Roy Easy Non-Fiction
Twenty-year-old college hockey player Travis Roy becomes a quadriplegic for life in the first eleven seconds of his first college game, and he shares his difficult times in the aftermath of this injury.

*Travis Roy, author of *Eleven Seconds*, will be a guest speaker this fall.

Summaries adapted from Follett Library Resources, Inc.~

10th Grade Summer Reading List

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Girl with the Pearl Earring Tracy Chevalier Moderate Historical Fiction
The fictional life of a sixteen-year-old Dutch girl named Griet sparks the interest of the artist, Johannes Vermeer, when she becomes a maid in his turbulent household.

The Woman Warrior Maxine Hong Kingston Challenge Memoir
A memoir of the American-born daughter of Chinese immigrants who lives within the traditions and fears of the Chinese past as well as the realities of the alien modern American culture.

The Road Cormac McCarthy Moderate Science Fiction
The journey of a father and his son as they walk alone after a great fire has consumed the nation and left everything in ashes.

Life of Pi Yann Martel Moderate Fiction
Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada. His life takes a marvelous turn when his ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.

Zlata's Diary Zlata's Filipovic Easy Non-fiction
The diary of a thirteen-year-old girl living in Sarajevo, begun just before her eleventh birthday when there was still peace in her homeland.

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11th Grade Summer Reading List

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The Grapes of Wrath John Steinbeck Challenging Fiction
The story of a farm family's Depression-era journey from the Dustbowl of Oklahoma to the California migrant labor camps in search of a better life.

The Secret Life of Bees Sue Monk Kidd Easy Fiction
Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers. They find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.

The Heretic's Daughter Kathleen Kent Moderate Historical Fiction
Ten-year-old Sarah Chapman, recovering from smallpox in 1752, becomes caught up in another life and death battle when her mother, Martha, is accused of witchcraft by her uncle who wants the plot of land on which the Chapman family is living. The rest of the community, looking for a scapegoat for their own troubles, joins the campaign to have Martha hanged.

My Antonia Willa Cather Moderate Fiction
A portrait of prairie life narrated by a successful lawyer, who remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with an immigrant Bohemian girl named Antonia.

The Jungle Upton Sinclair Challenging Fiction
A social exposé describing the deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards as seen through the eyes of a young immigrant struggling in America.

Students entering Advanced Placement courses should consult their AP teachers for a separate reading list.

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12th Grade Summer Reading List

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Frankenstein Mary Shelley Challenging Gothic Romance
Dr. Frankenstein pursues scientific advancement with disastrous consequences.

A Tale of Two Cities Charles Dickens Moderate Historical Fiction
The epic saga of the French Revolution and its effect upon the lives of several individuals, both French and English.

1984 George Orwell Moderate Science Fiction
Depicts life in a totalitarian regime of the future. "Big Brother is watching."

A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini Easy Fiction
Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in war torn Kabul; losses incurred over the course of thirty years test the limits of their strength and courage.

The Alchemist Paulo Coelho Easy Fiction
Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, sets out from his home in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of buried treasure. Through his encounters with a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself a king, and an Alchemist, he learns the value of the treasure found within himself.

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