

**Council Rock School District Libraries
High School
Summer Reading List
2009**

Angelou, Maya. Letter to My Daughter. Grades 9-12

Contains essays in which Maya Angelou uses memories and poems to offer life lessons and inspirational wisdom to the "thousands of daughters" she considers her extended family.

Brinkman, Rick & Kirshner, Rick. Dealing With People You Can't Stand: How To Bring Out the Best In People At Their Worst. Grades 9-12

The authors, of this no-nonsense, practical book, lay out the details of communicating with the most difficult people and give the readers tips on how one can avoid the pitfalls of bad behavior when communicating at home, school or work.

Collins, Suzanne. Hunger Games. Grades 7-12

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Doctorow, Cory. Little Brother. Grades 8-12

Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

Friel, Brian. Dancing at Lughnasa. Grades 9-12

This play, narrated by Michael, who has been raised by his mother and her sisters in County Donegal, Ireland, presents a recollection of the summer of 1936, when his world takes a dramatic shift. Two important males enter his life, his father comes to visit, and his uncle returns from missionary service in Africa. Undercurrents of family changes as well as cultural changes run through the dialog of this fine work.

Gaiman, Neil. The Graveyard Book. Grades 9-12

This award winning, illustrated novel, with its creepy setting, is really a story about raising a youngster, even if the care and responsibility for the raising, is done by the dead. The added problem of protecting the young one from a killer presents some curious situations for the population of the graveyard!

Green, John. Paper Towns. Grades 9-12

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

Ibbitson, John. The Landing. Grades 9-12

Ben, who manages to grab some practice on his violin between chores at his Uncle Henry's business at Cooks Landing, gets a job fixing the grand old cottage on Pine Island and meets Ruth, a rich, cultured woman from New York who introduces Ben to a new, more liberating world until a storm on Lake Muskoka changes everything.

Jasper, Kenji. Dark. Grades 11-12

Thai Williams, a filing clerk for the Washington D.C. Department of Public Works with plans to attend college, has not quite severed his ties to the ghetto in which he grew up, but a criminal act forces him to find a path out of the dark and into the light of moral responsibility.

Jocelyn, Marthe. Would You. Grades 8-12

Nat's summer of work and hanging out with friends is suddenly changed when her sister, Claire, is hit by a car and ends up in a coma.

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Klass, David. You Don't Know Me. Grades 7-12

Fourteen-year-old John creates alternative realities in his mind as he tries to deal with his mother's abusive boyfriend, his crush on a beautiful, but shallow classmate and other problems at school.

Kluger, Steve. My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins & Fenway Park.

Grades 9-12

Set in Boston, this is a story of three friends, during their junior year of high school, written as a school assignment, in a non-traditional format, including letters, emails, IM, etc. Romance, identity crisis and a possible kidnapping highlight this breezy novel.

Korman, Gordon. Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle. Grades 9-12

Vince Luca, star character of the original *Son of the Mob*, is back as a college student in this sequel. Although Luca travels across the country to attend college in California, his family tribulations follow along. If you are a fan of *The Sopranos* or *The Godfather*, you will enjoy this entertaining story.

Madigan, Tim. I'm Proud of You: My Friendship with Fred Rogers. Grades 9-12

Journalist Tim Madigan shares stories about his friendship with Fred Rogers, discussing how the children's television host helped him deal with problems in his personal life.

Mary Mercedes, Sister. Book of Courtesy. Grades 9-12

This timeless book of etiquette has been updated by Sister Mary Mercedes' students and covers topics such as table manners, cell phone use, and conduct in the workplace. Its practical advice and easy to read format make it a very useful book for any reader!

Murray, Jaye. Bottled Up. Grades 7-12

A high school boy comes to terms with his drug addiction, life with an alcoholic father, and a younger brother who looks up to him.

Myers, Walter Dean. Sunrise over Fallujah. Grades 8-12

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. 19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East. Grades 9-12

School, books, lunch, prayer, war – all themes of these beautifully written poems from this talented Arab-American poet.

Oates, Joyce Carol. After the Wreck, I Picked Myself Up, Spread My Wings, and Flew Away.

Grades 9-12

Jenna Abbott survives a serious car accident but others involved in the accident, including her mother, do not. Jenna must, now, reconcile herself to profound loss as well as to the painful changes that occur because of the crash. This fast read touches on the topics of "growing up and growing beyond loss" as Jenna's psychologist suggests and about making choices and accepting consequences of those choices.

Pearson, Mary. The Adoration of Jenna Fox. Grades 8-12

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

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Schumacher, Julie. Black Box. Grades 8-12

When her sixteen-year-old sister is hospitalized for depression and her parents want to keep it a secret, fourteen-year-old Elena tries to cope with her own anxiety and feelings of guilt that she is determined to conceal from outsiders.

Shaffer, Mary Ann and Annie Barrows. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Grades 9-12

Serendipitous circumstances land a young, big-city writer on the island of Guernsey. She is charmed, by its residents, into telling the story of the occupation of their beloved homeland, by the Nazis, during WW II. This endearing story moves along quickly and will leave the reader with an uplifting feeling.

Wroblewski, David. The Story of Edgar Sawtelle. Grades 9-12

Edgar Sawtelle, born mute, lives contentedly on his parents' Wisconsin farm helping raise a unique breed of dogs developed by his grandfather to embody the qualities of companionship and wisdom, but the death of his father and his belief that his uncle had something to do with it, force him to flee to the forest with only three yearlings for companionship, where he struggles to survive until the need to confront his uncle leads him home again.

Yang, Gene. American Born Chinese. Grades 9-12

A graphic novel featuring the antics of the Monkey King, Jin Wang & Wei Chen and the surprising way they reveal their true natures.