



Summer Reading List
For incoming 10th graders
2008-09

At Tapestry High School, literacy is an important component of all classes. Incoming sophomores are required to read **at least three books** over the summer, one common text in preparation for our first big unit of study or "expedition," and two from a choice of selections. You will be assessed on the required reading early in September but after the first week of school. All titles are readily available in paperback from bookstores, on-line or the public library:

Required Reading:

- Free the Children: A Young Man Fights Against Child Labor and Proves that Children Can Change the World, by Craig Kielburger with Kevin Major

Twelve-year-old Craig Kielburger, upset by a newspaper article about the forced slavery and subsequent murder of a child in Pakistan, began in 1995 to research worldwide injustice against children. This book shows Kielburger's transformation from a normal middle-class kid from the suburbs to an activist fighting against child labor on the world stage of international human rights.

Choice List: Pick two from this List

A note about the numbers on the right: These numbers are "Lexile Scores," which provide a guideline for the difficulty of these books. Generally, the higher the Lexile Score, the more challenging the book. If you are very interested in a book, chances are you will read it successfully regardless of the Lexile score, so don't let a high number keep you from reading a book you really want to read.

- **The Perfect Storm, Sebastian Junger** 1140
In 1991 the forces of nature converged to create a 100 year storm that caught the North Atlantic fishing fleet at sea and unprotected. Readers follow a Gloucester Mass. fishing boat as the fishermen battle for survival against high seas and and overwhelming odds.
HS Nonfiction
- **Schindler's List, Thomas Keneally** 1150
The riveting story of how Oscar Schindler saved the lives of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust.
HS Nonfiction
- **The Bean Trees, Barbara Kingsolver** 900
Feisty Marietta Greer changes her name to "Taylor" when her car runs out of gas in Taylorville, Ill. By the time she reaches Oklahoma, this strong-willed young Kentucky native with a quick tongue and an open

mind is catapulted into a surprising new life. Ultimately Taylor finds that motherhood, responsibility and independence are thorny, if welcome, gifts. This funny, inspiring book is a marvelous affirmation of risk-taking, commitment and everyday miracles.

- **Beloved, Toni Morrison** 870
Preferring death over slavery for her children, Sethe murders her infant daughter only to be haunted by the child's ghost.
- **Women of the Silk, Gail Tsykiyama** 890
Depicting life in rural 1920s China, this is the story of a community of women and their struggle for economic independence.
- **The Mists of Avalon, Marion Zimmer Bradley** 1120
King Arthur's story, told from the viewpoints of four women in his life.
- **In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle, Madeline Blais** 1150
Offers a close-up of the girls on a high school basketball team whose passion for the sport is rivaled only by their loyalty to one another. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Madeleine Blais' book takes the reader through a season in the history of the Lady Hurricanes of Amherst, Massachusetts.
HS Nonfiction
- **Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens, The: The Ultimate Teenage Success Guide,**
Sean Covey 850
A step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more.
HS Nonfiction
- **Stoner & Spaz, Ron Koertge** 490
A troubled youth with cerebral palsy struggles toward self-acceptance with the help of a drug-addicted young woman.
HS Fiction
- **Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer** 1320
The tragedy that took the lives of experienced mountain guides and novice climbers in a raging blizzard atop Mt. Everest in 1996 is chronicled with clarity, poignancy, and brutal honesty by one who witnessed the event first-hand.
- **Slam, Walter Dean Myers** 750
Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.
HS Fiction
- **Cuba 15, Nancy Osa** 750
Violet Paz, growing up in suburban Chicago, barely knows Spanish, and her dad refuses to talk about his Cuban roots, so it's a real surprise when Abuela insists that Violet have a grand 'quinceanero,' the traditional Latina fifteenth-year coming-of-age ceremony. Many teens will recognize the cross-generational conflict between assimilation and the search for roots.
HS Fiction
- **True Believer, Virginia Wolff** 820
At 15, LaVaughn already knows that life is hard and that getting ahead takes a strong mind and an even

stronger will. Surrounded by poverty and violence, she strives every day not to be just another inner-city statistic.

- **Hard Love, Ellen Wiflinger** 680
John's friendship with Marisol helps him deal with his buried feelings about his family in this honest and engaging look at a teenage boy's first love.
- **My Losing Season, Pat Conroy** 1100
This is a well-written book for anyone who ever experienced failure or the fear of failure while trying very hard to succeed. "My Losing Season" is an autobiography that focuses on the author's senior year as a college basketball player at The Citadel, the famous military school in Charleston, South Carolina.
- **Tuesdays with Morrie, Mitch Albom** 820
Morrie Schwartz is the kind of man we would all want to know. A kind, loving man with an approach to life that we learn is very particular and precise for him. He has lived his life according to his own philosophy. Mitch Albom, the author, first met Morrie years ago while a student at Brandeis College in Massachusetts, and Morrie became his mentor. They lost touch as people do. Mitch saw Morrie on "Nightline" discussing how to live with disease. Mitch knew instantly that he needed to see his old mentor again. Thus began the Tuesdays with Morrie- 14 of them, to be exact.
- **One Hundred Secret Senses, Amy Tan** 820
Olivia, the narrator of this story, was born to an American mother and a Chinese father. She meets her 18-year-old Chinese half sister, Kwan, for the first time shortly after their father's death. Kwan adores "Libby-ah" and tries to introduce her to her Chinese heritage through stories and memories. Olivia is embarrassed by her sibling, but finds as she matures that she has inadvertently absorbed much about Chinese superstitions, spirits, and reincarnation.