



Summer Reading List
For incoming 9th graders
2008-09

At Tapestry High School, literacy is an important component of all classes. Incoming freshman 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 in Preparation for First Freshman Expedition (Choose one)

- Farmer, Nancy
The House of the Scorpion 660
Matt is a clone of El Patrón, a powerful drug lord of the land of Opium, which is located between the United States and Mexico. For six years, he has lived in a tiny cottage in the poppy fields with Celia, a kind and deeply religious servant woman who is charged with his care and safety. He knows little about his existence until he is discovered by a group of children playing in the fields and wonders why he isn't like them. Though Matt has been spared the fate of most clones, who have their intelligence destroyed at birth, the evil inhabitants of El Patrón's empire consider him a "beast" and an "eejit." When El Patrón dies at the age of 146, fourteen-year-old Matt escapes Opium with the help of Celia and Tam Lin, his devoted bodyguard who wants to right his own wrongs. After a near misadventure in his escape, Matt makes his way back home and begins to rid the country of its evils.
HS Fiction
- Cormier, Robert
I Am the Cheese 810
Imagine discovering that your whole life has been a fiction, your identity altered, and a new family history created. Suddenly nothing is as it once seemed; you can trust no one, maybe not even yourself. It is exactly this revelation that turns 14-year-old Adam Farmer's life upside down. As he tries to ascertain who he really is, Adam encounters a past, present, and future too horrible to contemplate.
HS Fiction

Choice Selections (Pick Two of These)

- Ferris, Jean
Of Sound Mind 730
High-school senior Theo is tired of being the "ears" for his deaf parents, especially when it begins to interfere with his plans for college and the rest of his life.
HS Fiction

- Jordan, Sherryl
Raging Quiet, The 830
 Suspicious of sixteen-year-old Marnie, a newcomer to their village, the residents accuse her of witchcraft when she discovers that the village madman is not crazy but deaf and she begins to communicate with him through hand gestures.
 HS Fiction
- Keller, Helen
Helen Keller: The Story of My Life 1090
 An autobiography of Helen Keller, written while she was a young woman, in which she tells of her early life, her relationship with her teacher Anne Sullivan, and her struggles to triumph over blindness and deafness.
 HS Nonfiction
- Alvarez, Julia
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents 950
 Uprooted from their family home in the Dominican Republic, the four Garcia sisters arrived in New York to find a life far different from the genteel existence they left behind.
 HS Fiction
- Cummings, Patricia
Red Kayak 800
 Brady loves his life on the Chesapeake Bay, but developers and rich summer families are moving into the area. His parents and friends are bitter about all the new construction. Tragedy strikes when one new family's kayak overturns in the bay, and Brady is left wondering whether it was more than an accident.
 HS Fiction
- Draper, Sharon
Romiette and Julio 610
 A modern Romeo and Juliet story that turns deadly when a gang does not approve of him and his relationship with Romiette, because she is African American, and he is Hispanic.
 HS Fiction
- McCormick, Patricia
Cut 660
 Callie, confined to a treatment facility for mutilating herself, gradually begins to understand some of the reasons behind her problems.
 HS Fiction
- Oates, Joyce Carol
Freaky Green Eyes 810
 Fifteen-year-old Frankie relates the events of the year leading up to her mother's mysterious disappearance and her own struggle to discover and accept the truth about her parents' relationship.
 HS Fiction
- Paulsen, Gary
How Angel Peterson Got His Name and Other Outrageous Tales about Extreme Sports 1180
 Paulsen recounts the bizarre, daredevil feats that he and his friends attempted during their Minnesota childhood.
 HS Nonfiction

- Paulsen, Gary
Guts 1230
 What do you do when you're being charged by a red-eyed furious wall of brown fur that is an insane moose? How do you make a weapon with your bare hands? How do you sneak up on a grouse or a rabbit, kill it with a well-aimed arrow, and cook it over a fire--without a pot? All this and lots more is essential learning for Brian Robeson, the young wilderness survivor in Gary Paulsen's classic novel *Hatchet*. In writing that book, Paulsen was determined that everything that happened to Brian--the survival techniques and the physical and emotional traumas--would be drawn closely from reality and his own experiences. In *Guts* he reveals the stories behind *Hatchet*, as he lived them. Linked to specific incidents from Brian's ordeal are the skills and insights Paulsen learned as a teenager passionately in love with hunting in the north woods of Minnesota, the extremes of exhaustion and cold he knew in running the Iditarod dog races in Alaska, the chilling close-up knowledge of heart attacks from his experiences as a volunteer ambulance driver, the silence and majesty of the wilderness.
 HS Nonfiction
- Santiago, Esmeralda
When I Was Puerto Rican 1020
 Eldest daughter in an ever-growing family, Santiago remembers growing up in Puerto Rico and the shock of moving to New York City and its change of pace and lifestyle.
 HS Fiction
- Spinelli, Jerry
Maniac Magee 820
 Maniac Magee is a folk story about a boy, a very excitable boy. One that can outrun dogs, hit a home run off the best pitcher in the neighborhood, tie a knot no one can undo. "Kid's gotta be a maniac," is what the folks in Two Mills say. It's also the story of how this boy, Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee, confronts racism in a small town, tries to find a home where there is none and attempts to soothe tensions between rival factions on the tough side of town.
 HS Fiction
- Flake, Sharon
The Skin I'm In 670
 The story focuses on the relationship between 12-year-old Maleeka Madison, whose dark skin and secondhand clothes draw much teasing and torment, and her English teacher, Miss Saunders, whose disfigurement brings its own negative attention from students.
 HS Fiction
- Haley, Alex
Autobiography of Malcolm X, The 1120
 This is the definitive biography of Malcolm X, from his birth through his final days.
 HS Biography
- Draper, Sharon
Fire from the Rock No Lexile Available
 This is the story of a young woman who integrated Little Rock High School.
 HS Historical fiction
- Meyers, Walter Dean
Monster 670
 "Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? In this innovative novel by Walter Dean Myers, the reader becomes

both juror and witness during the trial of Steve's life. To calm his nerves as he sits in the courtroom, aspiring filmmaker Steve chronicles the proceedings in movie script format. Interspersed throughout his screenplay are journal writings that provide insight into Steve's life before the murder and his feelings about being held in prison during the trial. "They take away your shoelaces and your belt so you can't kill yourself no matter how bad it is. I guess making you live is part of the punishment."

HS Fiction