



SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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GOVERNOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2015 TOP PERFORMING SCHOOL

June 2017

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Research indicates that the only way students become better readers is by reading. In order to instill a love of reading in our students, we need to encourage our students to read all year long, and summer is an important time for them to read for enjoyment. Reading can fill your adolescent's days with the love of stories and the fascination of factual reading. Therefore, this summer we will offer Shelton's Summer Reading Program.

The Summer Reading Program for students entering grades 9 and 10 contains a list of books that are appropriate and interesting for students based upon the grade level that they will be entering. This list offers a wide variety of titles and authors to meet students' varied interests and readiness levels. It also includes nonfiction and content area selections to extend the science and social studies curricula. Students entering grades 9 and 10 **must** read a minimum of one book from the list. During the first week of school, they will be required to write an essay on the book for a quiz grade. The mandatory book list can be downloaded from the Shelton Public Schools website at www.sheltonpublicschools.org.

The success of this program depends heavily upon your support as parents and guardians. Our shared commitment will help your students to become critical readers and thinkers while developing a life-long love of reading.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria White".

Victoria White

Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment and Professional Learning

Shelton High School Grades 9 and 10 Summer Reading Suggestions 2017

This summer reading list is a combined effort of teachers, students, and media specialists. Books were selected by people with varying interests in an effort to provide choices for all readers. Parents are encouraged to view the list to help find appropriate titles for their children. Lexiles are provided where available.

***SHS Media Center owns a copy or copies.**

X: e-book available at no charge and may be downloaded at Iconnct.oneclickdigital.com

P: copy or copies available through the Shelton Public Library System.

Lexiles (when available) appear at the end of each entry.

Nutmeg Book Award Nominees

**Dumplin'* by Julie Murphy: Willowdean Dixon is not your typical beauty queen. Living in Clover City, a town that is home to one of the oldest beauty pageants in Texas, and with a former beauty queen for a mother, Willowdean navigates being a 'fat girl' in this world with humor, confidence, and a lot of sass. Willowdean embarks on a journey that will change how she and her town define what makes a beauty queen beautiful. (X,P) 710L

**Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse: Finding and delivering hard to come by goods for friends and neighbors in 1943 German-occupied Amsterdam is the business that Hanneke is good at. Finding a missing Jewish girl becomes Hanneke's passion, putting her in the crosshairs of the Nazis. (X,P) 720L

**More Happy Than Not* by Adam Silvera: If you could erase your memories, would you? What if you could change who you are? Aaron wants to change his life to become someone new, and a new medical procedure is available to allow him to do just that, but can he really escape who and what he is? (X,P) 850L

Red Rising by Pierce Brown: Darrow, a sixteen-year-old in humanity's Red caste, willingly spends his days in the mines of Mars, certain that his work is necessary to terraform the planet's surface. After being caught in a forbidden area, however, his life is torn apart, and he discovers the truth about the caste system he was forced into. (X,P) 630L

**The Rest of Us Just Live Here* by Patrick Ness: Mikey, Jared, Mel, and Henna just want to get through high school. They suffer through the usual teen experiences - jealousy, unrequited love, essays - but they have also fought zombies and fallen in love with vampires. Now they have to face another challenge: one of them is 'the chosen one'. (X,P) 700L

**Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens* by Becky Albertalli: Simon is a sixteen-year-old boy who is gay but not quite ready to tell the whole world. When an email falls into the wrong hands, he worries his secret may not remain a secret for long. Now Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone and tell the truth before he alienates himself from friends or loses his shot with his mysterious crush. (X) 640L

**We Are the Ants* by Shaun David Hutchinson: The aliens have given Henry 144 days to decide whether life on earth is worth keeping around. Given the state his own life is in, he's not so sure. The love of his life has committed suicide; his clueless brother is going to be a teen father; his grandmother is sinking further and further into a fog of Alzheimer's. On the other hand, there's Diego... (X,P) 800L

**X: a Novel* by Ilyasah Shabazz: *X* is a novelized telling of the growing up years of Malcolm Little/Malcolm X. His father was murdered and his mother was put in a mental institution. Young Malcolm goes to live with his sister in Boston. There he takes to the world of drinking, drugs, and hustling, and eventually prison. 580L

**The Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds: Matt is trying to cope with his mom's death from cancer and his dad's drinking. A job at a local funeral home gives him comfort, and then he meets a girl, who helps him share his feelings. (X,P) 760L

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton: All Mimi wants is to be an astronaut, but being a female with Japanese and African-American parents in 1969 Vermont comes with its own challenges. As she makes new friends and overcomes the barriers around her, she realizes what is really important. (P) 790L

**Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead: Three girls, who promised never to fight, have found their friendship tested. Will their friendship survive the trials of school and growing up? (P) 560L

**I Am Princess X* by Cherie Priest: When they were young, May and Libby created a princess together. When Libby died, the princess died with her. Years later May starts seeing images of the princess around town. Could Libby still be alive? (P) 790L

I Kill the Mockingbird by Paul Acampora: In honor of their recently deceased teacher, a group of friends hatch a plot to popularize the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* by creating a controversy surrounding the novel. Their efforts increase demand, but have consequences they don't expect. (P) 640L

The Last Boy at St. Edith's by Lee Gjersten Malone: There used to be 27 boys at St. Edith's Academy, but over time all but one left, leaving Jeremy the only boy out of 475 students! In desperation, Jeremy pulls a series of pranks in hopes of getting expelled so he can go home with his friends. (P) 780L

The Novice by Taran Matharu: When Fletcher accidentally summons a Familiar, he is forced to leave his home to attend The Academy where he is taught how to use his powers. (P) 890L

**Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary Schmidt: Trying to escape his past, Joseph is trying to find his future. Can Jack and his family help Joseph find a home on their family farm? Will Joseph find the one thing from his past that he is looking for? (X,P) 740L

**The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall: After his father's death, Arthur throws a brick at the local 'Junk Man' when he sees him wearing his father's favorite hat. He is sentenced to community service working with the Junk Man to complete his mysterious project. (P) 760L

Thirteen Chairs by Dave Shelton: Thirteen souls are at a table, each with a tale to tell. Are you brave enough to pull up a chair? (P) 930L

Governor's Reading Challenge Summer 2017 - FICTION

Audacity by Melanie Crowder: This historical fiction novel in verse details the life of Clara Lemlich and her struggle for women's labor rights in early 20th century New York. 1120L

**Starbird Murphy and the World Outside* by Karen Finneyfrock: Starbird has spent the first sixteen years of her life on a commune in the woods of Washington State. When she gets her Calling to become a waitress at the farm's satellite restaurant in Seattle, it means leaving behind the only place she's ever known and entering the World Outside. (P) 820L

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver: Tired of living on a failing farm and suffering oppressive poverty, bored housewife Dellarobia Turnbow, on the way to meet a potential lover, is detoured by a miraculous event on the Appalachian mountainside that ignites a media and religious firestorm that changes her life forever. (P)

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel: The sudden death of a Hollywood actor during a production of "King Lear" marks the beginning of the world's dissolution in a story told at various points past and future.

**A Step Toward Falling* by Cammie McGovern: After failing to come to Belinda's aid while she was being attacked, Emily and another classmate are punished by being forced to work at a community center for people with disabilities, but they are put to the ultimate test when Belinda finally returns to school and they must find a way to make amends to her. 730L

Eight Girls Taking Pictures by Whitney Otto: A tale inspired by the lives of famous twentieth century female photographers, traces the progression of feminism and photography in various world regions as each woman explores private and public goals while balancing the demands of family and creativity. (P)

Out of Nowhere by Maria Padian: Performing community service for pulling a stupid prank against a rival high school, soccer star Tom tutors a Somali refugee with soccer dreams of his own. (P) 670L

**The Lucy Variations* by Sara Zarr: With her chance at a career as a concert pianist passed, Lucy Beck-Moreau decides to help her ten-year-old piano prodigy brother, Gus, map out his own future, even as she explores why she enjoyed piano in the first place. 610L

**I am the Messenger* by Marcus Zusak: After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness. (X,P) 640L

**Squashed* by Joan Bauer: As sixteen-year-old Ellie pursues her goals--growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing twenty pounds herself--she strengthens her relationship with her father and meets a young man with interests similar to her own. (P) 930L

**Love in the Time of Global Warming* by Francesca Lia Block: After a devastating earthquake destroys the West Coast, causing seventeen-year-old Penelope to lose her home, her parents, and her ten-year-old brother, she navigates a dark world, holding hope and love in her hands and refusing to be defeated. 890L

Weetzie Bat by Francesca Lia Block: This novel follows the wild adventures of Weetzie Bat and her Los Angeles friends, Dirk, Duck, and My-Secret-Agent-LoverMan. 960L

**Girl Overboard* by Justina Chen: After a snowboarding accident, Syrah Cheng, a billionaire's daughter, must rehabilitate both her knee and her self-esteem while forging relationships with those who accept her for who she is. 960L

**Just Listen* by Sara Dessen: Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life. (X,P) 810L

**Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman: In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents. (P) 760

**Midwinterblood* by Marcus Sedgwick: Seven linked vignettes unfold on a Scandinavian island inhabited--throughout various time periods--by Vikings, vampires, ghosts, and a curiously powerful plant. (P) 770L

**Buried Onions* by Gary Soto: 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.(P) 850L

**Marcelo in the Real World* by Francisco X. Stork: Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. (X,P) 700L

Jumped by Rita Williams-Garcia: The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved. 600L

Governor's Reading Challenge Summer 2017 - NONFICTION

**Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad* by M. T. Anderson: An account of the Siege of Leningrad reveals the role played by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony in rallying and commemorating their fellow citizens. (P) 990L

**Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines* by Paul Fleischman: A summary of today's environmental challenges also counsels teens on how to decode conflicting information, explaining the role of vested interests while identifying the sources behind different opinions, helping teens make informed choices. 1080 L

**Smarter Than You Think: How Technology Is Changing Our Minds for the Better* by Clive Thompson: This text shows how every technological advance, from the printing press to the Internet, has been disparaged, caused hand-wringing, and generated anxious predictions of doom, but actually has augmented human life for the better.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof: This book discusses the oppression of women in the developing world, sharing example stories about victims and survivors who are working to raise awareness, counter abuse, and campaign for women's rights.

Governor's Reading Challenge Summer 2017 - BIOGRAPHY

**Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business - and Won!* by Emily Arnold McCully: This book follows the life of Ida Tarbell, the nineteenth-century author/journalist whose articles on the corrupt practices of John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil Company resulted in legislation against trusts. 1120 L

**Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson: The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. (P) 1130L

Staff Suggestions

The Good Braider by Terry Farish: In spare free verse laced with unforgettable images, Viola's strikingly original voice sings out the story of her family's journey from war-torn Sudan, to Cairo, and finally to Portland, Maine. (P) 630L

The Only Road by Alexandra Diaz: Twelve-year-old Jaime makes the treacherous and life-changing journey from his home in Guatemala to live with his older brother in the United States in this gripping and realistic novel.

Hold Tight Don't Let Go by Laura Rose Wagner: Follows the vivid story of two teenage cousins, raised as sisters, who survive the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. After losing the woman who raised them in the tragedy, Magdalie and Nadine must fend for themselves in the aftermath of the quake. (P)

**Outrun the Moon* by Stacey Lee: Fifteen-year-old Mercy Wong is determined to break from the poverty of Chinatown, San Francisco in 1906, and an education at St. Clare's School for Girls is her best hope. Although St. Clare's is off-limits to all but the wealthiest white girls, Mercy gains admittance through a mix of cunning and a little bribery, only to discover that getting in was the easiest part. 780L

Across a Hundred Mountains: A Novel by Reyna Grande: Winner of the American Book Award, *Across a Hundred Mountains* is a stunning and poignant novel about a young girl who leaves her small town in Mexico to find her father, who left his family to find work in America—a story of migration, loss, and discovery.

Reaching for the Stars: The Inspiring Story of a Migrant Farmworker Turned Astronaut by Jose Fernandez: Born into a family of migrant workers, toiling in the fields by the age of six, Jose M. Hernández dreamed of traveling through the night skies on a rocket ship. *Reaching for the Stars* is the inspiring story of how he realized that dream, becoming the first Mexican-American astronaut.

**The Inexplicable Logic of My Life* by Benjamin Alire Saenz: Sal used to know his place with his adoptive gay father, their loving Mexican American family, and his best friend, Samantha. But it's senior year, and suddenly Sal is throwing punches, questioning everything, and realizing he no longer knows himself. This humor-infused, warmly humane look at universal questions of belonging is a triumph. 450L

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng: This novel is about a mixed-race Chinese-American family whose middle daughter Lydia is found drowned in a lake. (P) 870L

The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton: A foundling, an old book of dark fairy tales, a secret garden, an aristocratic family, a love denied, and a mystery. *The Forgotten Garden* is a captivating, atmospheric and compulsively readable story of the past, secrets, family and memory. (P)

In a Dark, Dark Wood by Ruth Ware: *In a Dark, Dark Wood* has all the hallmarks of a good psychological thriller-- a woman lured back to a past she's spent a decade trying to escape, a few unstable characters, and a shocking death. The impending marriage of Nora's best friend from that long ago time brings her to a glass-walled cabin deep in the woods, for a hen party (the U.K. equivalent of a bachelorette weekend).

Teacup Full of Roses by Sharon Bell Mathis: Joe's decision to leave home is prompted by despair over his Mother's blindness to his younger brother's talents and his older brother's drug addiction.

What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty: Alice Love is twenty-nine, crazy about her husband, and pregnant with her first child. So imagine Alice's surprise when she comes to on the floor of a gym and is whisked off to the hospital where she discovers the honeymoon is truly over—she's getting divorced, she has three kids, and she's actually 39 years old.

The First Phone Call from Heaven by Mitch Albom: *The First Phone Call from Heaven* tells the story of a small town on Lake Michigan that gets worldwide attention when its citizens start receiving phone calls from the afterlife. Is it the greatest miracle ever or a massive hoax? Sully Harding, a grief-stricken single father, is determined to find out. (P)

Iago by David Snowdin: Wounded in love, tormented by his past, Shakespeare's most complex villain is brought magnificently to life in this tale of two adversaries—one an accused killer; the other, one of the most powerful men in Venice.