



## SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

382 Long Hill Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484  
Tel. (203) 924-1023 Fax (203) 924-1020  
[www.sheltonpublicschools.org](http://www.sheltonpublicschools.org)

Dr. Christopher Clouet

Superintendent of Schools

Victoria White

Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment  
and Professional Learning

### GOVERNOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2015 & 2017 TOP PERFORMING SCHOOL

June 2018

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](http://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,

Victoria White

Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment and Professional Learning

## Shelton High School Grades 9 and 10 Summer Reading List 2018

This summer reading list is a combined effort of teachers, students, media specialists, and Shelton Public Library Librarians. 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. Descriptions were taken from The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, amazon.com, and titlewave.com.

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

**X: e-book available at no charge and may be downloaded at [Iconnect.oneclickdigital.com](http://Iconnect.oneclickdigital.com)**

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

**L: Lexiles (where available) appear at the end of each entry.**

**G: Governor's Summer Reading Challenge**

**N: Nutmeg Book Award Nominees**

### Fiction

*Love Hate & Filters* by Samira Ahmed: In this unforgettable debut novel, an Indian-American Muslim teen copes with Islamophobia, cultural divides among peers and parents, and a reality she can neither explain nor escape. 660L (P) \*

*Landscape with Invisible Hand* by M.T Anderson: When jobs typically done by humans are replaced with alien technology from the vuvv, Adam's family has no money. Since the vuvv love anything of "classic" Earth culture, Adam and his girlfriend begin recording 1950s-style dates which the vuvv watch in a pay-per-minute format. As the money rolls in, how far will Adam be willing to go to give the vuvv what they want? 730L (P)

*Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo: Katterdam is a city known for its international trade, a city where anything can be bought for price. Kaz is given the opportunity to execute an almost impossible heist that will make him rich beyond his dreams, but he can't do it alone. Kaz assembles a team of six of the most deadly outcasts, and together they will accomplish the impossible, if they don't kill each other in the process. 790L (N) (P) \*

*Far From the Tree* by Robin Benway: Three teenagers, biological siblings separated by adoption, explore the meaning of family in all its forms. 780L (P)

*The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black: Jude was seven years old when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. Jude will need to risk her life in a dangerous alliance to save her sisters and Faerie itself. 760L (P) \*

*Kindred* by Octavia Butler: A young African-American woman is mysteriously transferred back in time leading to an irresistible curiosity about her family's past 580L (G) (P) \*

*American Panda* by Gloria Chao: 17-year-old Mei, a Taiwanese-American girl, is forced to reconcile her parents' wishes with her own desires when she starts her first year at MIT. On track to be a doctor and marry a fellow Taiwanese-American in the same line of work, Mei's conflict lies in the fact that she is germaphobic, bored with her biology coursework, and has a big fat crush on Darren Takahashi — another MIT student whose Japanese heritage makes him an impossible match in the eyes of Mei's mother. Reconnecting with her estranged brother Xing, who was ousted from the family circle for dating against their parents' wishes, Mei must decide whether she should continue to keep her secrets or just go with the family flow. 780L \*

*Beautiful Music for Ugly Children* by Kirstin Cronn-Mills: Gabe has always identified as a boy, but he was born with a girl's body. With his new public access radio show gaining in popularity, Gabe struggles with romance, friendships, and parents-- all while trying to come out as a transgender. An audition for a station in Minneapolis looks like his ticket to a better life in the big city. But his entire future is threatened when several violent guys find out Gabe, the popular DJ, is also Elizabeth from school. 600L (G) (P)

*Out of my Mind* by Sharon Draper: Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. However, Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy and is determined to let everyone know it - somehow. 700L (P) \*

*Copper Sun* by Sharon M. Draper: Two fifteen-year-old girls-- one a slave and the other an indentured servant-- escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Mose, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves 820L (G) (P) \*

*Refugee* by Alan Gratz: Three different kids have one mission in common: ESCAPE. Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe. All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. 800L (P)

*Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green: It all begins with a fugitive billionaire and the promise of a cash reward. *Turtles All the Way Down* is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an

unexpected reunion, Star Wars fanfiction, and tuatara. However, at its heart is Aza Holmes, a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. 840L (P) \*

*The Librarian of Auschwitz* by Antonio Iturbe: The novel follows Dita Kraus from age fourteen, when she is put in charge of a few forbidden books at Auschwitz concentration camp, through the end of World War II and beyond. 940L (P)

*Illuminae* by Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff: Katy, Ezra, and other refugees flee their attacked planet on a squadron of spaceships, with an enemy ship following closely behind. Soon thereafter, a deadly disease breaks out across the fleet. The artificial intelligence system AIDAN is supposed to protect the ships from any harm- including the virus- but it has other plans. Kady's not trying to be a hero, but she just might end up saving the entire fleet. 780L (N) (P) \*

*Warcross* by Marie Lu: When teenage coder Emika Chen hacks her way into the opening tournament of the Warcross Championships, she glitches herself into the game as well as a sinister plot with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire. 810L (P) \*

*All Our Pretty Songs* by Sarah McCarry: In the Pacific Northwest, the bond between two best friends is challenged when a mysterious and gifted musician comes between them and awakens an ancient evil. 820L (G)

*Game* by Walter Dean Myers: If Harlem High School senior Drew Lawson is going to realize his dream of playing college then professional basketball, he will have to improve at being coached and being a team player, especially after a new white student threatens to take the scouts' attention away from him. 800L (G) \*

*The Sky is Everywhere* by Jandy Nelson: In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician. 860L (G) (P)

*You Bring the Distant Near* by Mitali Perkins: From 1965 through the present, an Indian American family adjusts to life in New York City. Raneer worries that her children are losing their Indian culture. As each woman decides which Bengali traditions to uphold in America, one hard truth remains: some scars take generations to heal. 720L (P) \*

*Miles Morales: Spider-Man* by Jason Reynolds: As a student at Brooklyn Visions Academy, Miles has a secret. He's actually Spider-Man. Well not THE Spider-Man but A Spider-Man-- pretty much the only Spider-Man in town now that Peter Parker is gone. Miles is doing his best to save every little old lady, but it's getting to be too much. 710L (P) \*

*Tone Deaf* by Olivia Rivers: Ali Collins was a child piano prodigy until a brain tumor caused her to lose her hearing, and now, after meeting Jace, the lead singer of Tone Deaf, her musical and romantic possibilities increase. 800L (G)

*Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell: Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits-- smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts but brave and desperate enough to try. 580L (G) (P) \*

*I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez: Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. 730L (P)

*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys: Near the end of WWII, the Wilhelm Gustloff, a hospital ship, is evacuating German civilians, Nazi officials, and military personnel from East Prussia. Joana, Florian, Emilia, and Alfred all unite to find strength, courage, and trust as they struggle toward freedom and their chance of escape. The story and its characters bring history to life with gripping danger, mystery, and hope. 560L (N) (P) \*

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith: Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century. 810L (G) (P) \*

*\*Strange the Dreamer* by Laini Taylor: The dream chooses the dreamer- not the other was around- and Lazlo Strange, war orphan and junior librarian, has always feared that his dream chose poorly. Since he was five years old, he's been obsessed with the mythic lost city of Weep, but it would take someone bolder than he to cross half the world in search of it. Then, a stunning opportunity presents itself. 820L (P) \*

*The Scar Boys* by Len Vlahos: Written as a college admission essay, eighteen-year-old Harry Jones recounts a childhood defined by the hideous cars he hid behind and how forming a band brought self- confidence, friendship, and his first kiss. 910L (G) (X) \*EB

*The Beauty that Remains* by Ashley Woodfolk: Music brought Autumn, Shay, and Logan together. Death might pull them apart. Autumn always knew exactly who she was- a talented artist and a loyal friend. Shay was defined by two things- her bond with her twin sister, Sasha, and her love of music. Logan has always turned to writing love songs when his real love life was a little less than perfect. However, when tragedy strikes each of them, somehow music is no longer enough. 810L (P) \*

*Eliza and Her Monsters* by Francesca Zappia: In the real world, Eliza Mirk is shy, weird, and friendless. Online, she's Lady Constellation, the anonymous creator of the wildly popular webcomic Monstrous Sea. Eliza can't imagine enjoying the real world as much as she loves the online one. 750L (P) \*

*The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner: Dill comes from a family of fanatical Pentecostal preachers. Travis is obsessed with a fantasy author. Lydia's log has an impressive following. These three quirky high school seniors refuse to let their backgrounds or their small Tennessee hometown hold them back from what they know life has in store. 630L (N) (P)

*American Street* by Ibi Zoboi: On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find une belle vie-- a good life. However, after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins; the grittiness of Detroit's West Side; a new school; and a surprising romance. 690L (P) \*

### **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. 990L (P) \*

*A Dog in the Cave: The Wolves Who Made Us Human* by Kay Frydenborg: This piece explores the connection between dogs and humans from hunter-gatherer partners to modern day pets. (G) (P) \*

*Sensing the Rhythm by Finding My Voice in a World Without Sound* by Mandy Harvey: The musician recounts her life and career, including how she lost her hearing at age eighteen, suffered from depression, and found her way back to music. 990L (P)

*Ready for a Brand New Beat: "Dancing in the Street" Became the Anthem for a Changing America* by Mark Kurlansky: This work traces the meteoric popularity of the iconic song by Marvin Gaye, Mickey Stevenson, and Ivy Jo Hunter against a backdrop of the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. 600L

*Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws That Affect Us Today* by Cynthia Levinson & Sanford Levinson: This piece takes readers back to the creation of the Constitution to discuss how contemporary political problems came about through haggling in an overheated room in 1787, and why the United States is still experiencing the ramifications. (G) (P)

*This is Your Brain on Music: the Science of a Human Obsession* by Daniel J. Levitin: This work explores the relationship between the mind and music by drawing on recent findings in the field of neuroscience and evolutionary psychology to discuss topics such as the sources of musical tastes and the brain's responses to music. (P)

*Die Young With Me: A Memoir* by Rob Rufus: The author describes growing up in rural West Virginia and starting a punk band with his twin brother, only to be diagnosed with stage four cancer, which forced him to discover his inner strength.

*Chasing King's Killer* by James L. Swanson: In his meteoric, thirteen-year rise to fame, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led a mass movement for Civil Rights — with his relentless peaceful, non-violent protests, public demonstrations, and eloquent speeches. However, as violent threats cast a dark shadow over Dr. King's life, Swanson hones in on James Earl Ray, a bizarre, racist, prison escapee who tragically ends King's life. Swanson transports readers back to one of the most shocking, sad, and terrifying events in American history. 1010L (G) (P) \*

*The Girl Who Smiled Beads* by Clemantine Wamariya: Raw, urgent, and bracingly original, this work captures the true costs and aftershocks of war. However, it is about more than the brutality of war. It is about owning your experiences, about the life we create: intricately detailed, painful, beautiful, a work in progress. (P)

### **Biography/Autobiography**

*They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky* by Alphonsion Deng, Benson Deng, Benjamin Ajak, and Judy Bernstein: Alepho, Benson, and Benjamin, by turn, recount their experiences along this unthinkable journey. They vividly recall the family, friends, and tribal world they left far behind them and their desperate efforts to keep track of one another. This is a captivating memoir of Sudan and a powerful portrait of war as seen through the eyes of children. In the end, it is an inspiring and unforgettable tribute to the tenacity of even the youngest human spirits.