



SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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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,

Victoria White

Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment and Professional Learning

Shelton High School Grades 9 and 10 Summer Reading List 2019

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, Nutmeg Book Award summary sheets, and Scholastic.**

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

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

Please be aware that to check out an ebook you must have a public library card.

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

***Flatland: A Romance* by Edwin A. Abbott:** With the use of a geometric theme, Abbott weaves the fascinating tale of "A Square," an inhabitant of "Flatland", a two-dimensional world where women are portrayed as simple line-segments and men are represented as polygons whose social status is determined by the number and regularity of their sides. 1280L (P) (X) *

***The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo:** When Xiomara Batista, who pours all her frustrations and passion into poetry, is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she struggles with her mother's expectations and her need to be heard. 880L (G) (P) *

***The Six* by Mark Alpert:** Virtual reality games are Adam's only escape. Muscular dystrophy has stolen his mobility and will soon take his life. When an Artificial Intelligence threatens the world, Adam and five other terminally ill teens are asked to abandon their bodies and have their minds uploaded into robots. Will the team be able to master their new forms and take down Sigma before he destroys humanity? 780L (N) (P)

***Midnight at the Electric* by Jodi Lynn Anderson:** While their stories span thousands of miles and multiple generations, Lenore, Catherine, and Adri's fates are entwined in ways both heartbreaking and hopeful. In Anderson's haunting, lyrical prose, human connections spark to life, and a bright light shines on the small but crucial moments that determine one's fate. 810L (G) (P)*

***Wishtree* by K.A. Applegate:** Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"- people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever. 590L (P)

***The Whole Thing Together* by Ann Brashares:** Summer for Sasha and Ray means the sprawling old house on Long Island. Since they were children, they've shared almost everything - reading the same books, running down the same sandy footpaths to the beach, laughing around the same sun-soaked dining table, even sleeping in the same bed, on the very same worn cotton sheets. But they've never met. 670L (P)

***Red Rising* by Pierce Brown:** Inspired by a longing for justice, and driven by the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity's overlords struggle for power. He will be forced to compete for his life and the very future of civilization. 630L (N) (G) (P) (X)

***Hope and Other Punch Lines* by Julie Buxbaum:** Abbi Hope Goldstein is like every other teenager, with a few smallish exceptions: her famous alter ego, Baby Hope, is the subject of internet memes. Abbi has lived almost her entire life in the shadow of the terrorist attacks of September 11. On that fateful day, she was captured in what became an iconic photograph. Now, fifteen years later, Abbi is desperate for anonymity. 780L

***Need* by Joelle Charbonneau:** Everyone is joining the hottest new social media site, and why not? Answer one simple question (What do you need? New phone? Concert tickets?), perform a seemingly minor task, and get what you asked for. Kaylee's brother needs a new kidney. It's a long shot, but she figures she'll try NEED - and quickly realizes the high price she'll have to pay. 730L (N) (P) (X) *

***Little & Lion* by Brandy Colbert:** When Suzette comes home to Los Angeles from her boarding school in New England, she's isn't sure if she'll ever want to go back. L.A. is where her friends and family are (as well as her crush, Emil). And her stepbrother, Lionel, who has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, needs her emotional support. When Lionel's disorder spirals out of control, Suzette is forced to confront her past mistakes and find a way to help her brother before he hurts himself--or worse. 820L (P) *

***Labyrinth Lost* by Zoraida Cordoba:** In her attempt to rid herself of her bruja powers, Alejandra accidentally banishes her family to the underworld, known as Los Lagos. In order to make things right, Alex joins up with Nova, a powerful brujo boy, and her non-magical best friend Rishi, to make the dangerous journey to Los Lagos to find them. 630L (N) (P) (X) *

***Waste of Space* by Gina Damico:** Cram ten hormonal teens into a spaceship and blast off: that's the premise for the ill-conceived reality show *Waste of Space*. The kids who are cast know everything about drama - and nothing about the fact that the production is fake. Millions of viewers are transfixed, but then, suddenly, all communication is severed. Trapped and paranoid, the kids must figure out what to do when this reality show loses its grip on reality. 770L (G)

***In the Key of Nira Ghani* by Natasha Deen:** Nira Ghani has always dreamed of becoming a musician. Her Guyanese parents, however, have big plans for her to become a scientist or doctor. When auditions for jazz band are announced, Nira realizes it's now or never to convince her parents that she deserves a chance to pursue her passion. But it isn't until Nira takes a step back that she realizes she's not the only one struggling to find her place in the world. *

***Pepperland* by Mark Delaney:** Pamela Jean (a.k.a. Star) is 16 when her mother dies of breast cancer. Star is angry that her mother has died and left her, and nothing seems to make her feel better. It is not until Star finds an unsent letter addressed to John Lennon and a broken-down vintage Gibson guitar that she begins to find a way out of her grief. 780L

***Mexican Whiteboy* by Matt de la Pena:** Danny is very talented at baseball. He has a ninety-five mile an hour fastball, but he's not even on a team. At his private school, they don't expect much from him. Danny is half-Mexican, and growing up in San Diego that close to the border means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. Danny decides to spend summer with his father's family. To find himself, he may just have to face the demons he refuses to see and open up to a friendship that he never saw coming. 680L *

***All is Fair* by Dee Garretson:** Lady Mina Tretheway knows she's destined for greater things than her fancy boarding school, where she's being taught to be a proper English lady. It's 1918, and war is raging across Europe. When Mina receives a telegram that's written in code, she finally has her chance to do something big. 710L *

***Right Note* by D.A. Graham:** Eve and Ryan have been a music duo ever since they were little. They decide to audition for *The Right Note*, a reality music competition, hoping to get their big break. But when the show starts and they are forced to compete against each other, their relationship is tested and they begin to question their musical skills. 690L

***Defy the Fates* by Claudia Gray:** Abel only has one mission left that matters: save the life of Noemi Vidal. To do that, he not only has to escape the Genesis authorities, he also must face the one person in the galaxy who still has the means to destroy him. The final battle between Earth and the colony planets is here, and there's no lengths to which Earth won't go to preserve its domination over all humanity. 830L

***Always and Forever, Lara Jean* by Jenny Han:** Lara Jean is having the best senior year a girl could ever hope for. She is head over heels in love with her boyfriend, Peter; her dad's finally getting remarried to their next door neighbor, Ms. Rothschild; and Margot's coming home for the summer just in time for the wedding. However, change is looming on the horizon. 700L (P) *

***172 Hours on the Moon* by Johan Harstad:** It's been decades since anyone set foot on the moon. Now three ordinary teenagers, the winners of NASA's unprecedented, worldwide lottery, are about to become the first young people in space - and change their lives forever. It's the opportunity of a lifetime, but little do the teenagers know that something sinister is waiting for them on the desolate surface of the moon. (G)

***Fifteen and Change* by Max Howard:** Zeke would love to be invisible. He knows he and his mom will be stuck forever if he doesn't find some money fast. When Zeke starts working at a local pizza place, he meets labor activists who want to give him a voice - and the living wage he deserves for his work. Zeke has to decide between living the quiet life he's carved for himself and raising his voice for justice. 500L

***OCDaniel* by Wesley King:** Daniel has some strange habits, like flipping light switches, avoiding certain numbers, and more. He doesn't know exactly what's going on, but he tries very hard to make sure no one notices - until someone does. Soon Daniel is caught up in a friendship and then a mystery that will change his life. 560L (N) (P) (X) *

***Whiteout* by Vanessa Lanang:** With dreams of becoming a professional snowboarder on her mind, Jessa drags her younger brother Pax up the tricky slopes of a mountain, ignoring warnings of an approaching storm. She's having a great time riding the powder—until the storm everybody warned her about gets in the way. 670L

***Outrun the Moon* by Stacey Lee:** In the early 1900s, 15-year-old Mercy Wong is determined to escape the poverty of Chinatown by getting an education. Mercy convinces admissions officers to allow her into St. Clare's School for Girls, and she stands strong until a historic earthquake hits San Francisco. Charged with a mission to help others, Mercy searches for a way to make an impact. 780L (N) *

***Shatter Me* by Tahereh Mafi:** One touch, and Juliette Ferrars can leave a fully grown man gasping for air. One touch, and she can kill. No one knows why Juliette has such incredible power. It feels like a curse, a burden that one person alone could never bear. The Reestablishment sees it as a gift, sees her as an opportunity for a deadly weapon. 650L (P)

***We Set the Dark on Fire* by Tehlor Kay Mejia:** At the Medio School for Girls, distinguished young women are trained for one of two roles in their polarized society. Depending on her specialization, a graduate will one day run a husband's household or raise his children. Daniela Vargas is the school's top student, but, school couldn't prepare her for the difficult choices she must make after graduation, especially when she is asked to spy for a resistance group. 840L *

***All We Have Left* by Wendy Mills:** Muslim teen Alia is trapped in the World Trade Center as chaos descends on September 11, 2001. Fifteen years later, Jesse is doing community service as punishment for hateful graffiti. Her brother died in the Twin Towers, and her family was shattered. Alternating chapters tell the girls' stories, eventually connecting them across time. 880L (N) (P) (X) *

***Within These Lines: Torn Apart by War, Held Together by Hope* by Stephanie Morrill:** Evalina Cassano's life as part of an Italian-American family living in San Francisco in 1941 is quiet and ordinary until she falls in love with Taichi Hamasaki, the son of Japanese immigrants. But anti-Japanese feelings erupt across the country after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Taichi and his family are forced to give up their farm and move to an internment camp. *

***Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer:** High school sophomore Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth. The result is catastrophic. Told in a year's worth of journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all - hope - in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world. 770L (N) (G) (P) (X) *

***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds:** Castle Crenshaw, a.k.a. Ghost, has been running ever since he and his mom escaped from his father's violent anger. After Ghost inadvertently earns a spot on an elite track team, his mother agrees to let him join but only if he can stay out of trouble. However, Ghost can't stay on the straight and narrow. Will Coach help him out or turn him in and cost Ghost his dream? 730L (N) (P) (X) *

***After the Shot Drops* by Randy Ribay:** Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision. 730L

All Men of Genius by Lev AC Rosen: Violet Adams wants to attend Illyria College, a widely renowned all-male school for the most brilliant up-and-coming scientific minds. When her father departs for America, Violet disguises herself as her twin brother, Ashton, and gains entry. She soon realizes that it's not just keeping her secret until the end of the year faire she has to worry about: it's surviving that long.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Saenz: Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship - the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. 380L (P) *

Scythe by Neil Shusterman: In a world that has found a way to conquer all forms of death, everyone must now depend on scythes to keep the world's population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen as apprentices to a scythe - a role that neither wants. The teens must master the skill of taking a life, knowing that if they fail, they could be next. 830L (N) *

Price of Duty by Todd Strasser: Jake Liddell is a war hero. The military is considering awarding him a Silver Star, a huge honor for any soldier - especially for the son of a military family. Only Jake's questioning everything his family brought him up to believe. Now at home, recovering from his physical wounds, the memories of what he experienced "over there" haunt him. 690L (P)

The Bitter Side of Sweet by Tara Sullivan: The Bitter Side of Sweet takes a hard look at how cacao harvesting is modern-day slave trade. Amadou and his brother, Seydou, need to harvest more and more cacao pods in order to survive the plantation bosses. Hope arrives with Khadija, the first girl to ever appear on the plantation. She has been forced into labor just like the boys, but as a girl she has even more reason to escape the bosses than they do. 810L (N) (P) (X) *

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas: Bri is 16 and wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill. But it's hard to get your come up when you're labeled a hoodlum. So Bri pours her anger and frustration into her first song, which goes viral...for all the wrong reasons. Bri soon finds herself at the center of a controversy, portrayed by the media as more menace than MC. 550L (G) (P) (X) *

Nonfiction

Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip by Matthew Algeo: From Missouri to New York and back again, this recounting of an amazing journey chronicles the road trip of a former president and his wife and their amusing, failed attempts to keep a low profile. (P) (X)

Quarterback: Inside the Most Important Position in the National Football League by John Feinstein: Quarterback dives deep into the most coveted and hallowed position in the NFL - exploring the stories of five top quarterbacks and taking readers inside their unique experiences of playing the position and holding the keys to their multi-billion-dollar teams. 1070L

The Future of Humanity: Terraforming Mars, Interstellar Travel, Immortality, and Our Destiny Beyond Earth by Michio Kak: The #1 bestselling author traverses the frontiers of astrophysics, artificial intelligence, and technology to offer a stunning vision of man's future in space, from settling Mars to traveling to distant galaxies. 1190L

K: A History of Baseball in Ten Pitches by Tyler Kepner: In *K*, Kepner traces the colorful stories and fascinating folklore behind the ten major pitches. Infusing every page with infectious passion for the game, each chapter highlights a different pitch, from the blazing fastball to the fluttering knuckleball to the slippery spitball.

Gigged: The End of the Job and The Future of Work by Sarah Kessler: One in three American workers is now a freelancer. This "gig economy" - one that provides neither the guarantee of steady hours nor benefits - emerged out of the digital era and has revolutionized the way we do business. What are the effects from Wall Street down to Main Street? What challenges do employees and job-seekers face at every level of professional experience? 1230L *

The Library Book by Susan Orlean: On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library - and if so, who? (P) (X) *

Packing for Mars by Mary Roach: Space agencies set up all manner of bizarre space simulations. As Roach discovers, it's possible to preview space without ever leaving Earth. From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's new space capsule, Roach takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth. 1070L (G) (P)*

Biography/Autobiography

***The March Against Fear* by Ann Bausum:** James Meredith's 1966 march in Mississippi began as one man's peaceful protest for voter registration and became one of the South's most important demonstrations of the civil rights movement. It brought together leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Stokely Carmichael, who formed an unlikely alliance that resulted in the Black Power movement, which ushered in a new era in the fight for equality. 1140L (P)

***American Dialogue: The Founding Fathers and Us* by Joseph Ellis:** The story of history is a ceaseless conversation between past and present, and in *American Dialogue*, Ellis focuses the conversation on the often-asked question "What would the Founding Fathers think?" *

***Rocket Boys: A Memoir* by Homer Hickam:** *Rocket Boys* is a uniquely American memoir - a powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the dawn of the 1960s, of a mother's love and a father's fears, of a group of young men who dreamed of launching rockets into outer space... and who made those dreams come true. (G)

***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip Hoose:** At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, 15-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. 970L *

***We Are Displaced* by Malala Yousafzai:** In *We Are Displaced*, which is part memoir, part communal storytelling, Malala not only explores her own story, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her journeys - girls who have lost their community, relatives, and often the only world they've ever known. *