



## Lowell High School Summer Reading Program Incoming Grade 11

**Happy Summer!** Lowell High School strives to be a community of readers. Students, faculty and staff all read for a variety of reasons – including to learn, to relax, and to broaden our experiences. We have chosen books that we think you will *enjoy* and we hope that you will be inspired to read them all!

### **Directions for the Summer Reading Program:**

- Students enrolled in a college level course are expected to read at least one book from our list. These students will have the opportunity to start the year with extra credit points by completing the assessment in English class during the second week of school.
- Students enrolled in an honors level English course are **required** to read **TWO** of the following books. These students will be tested by their English teacher during the second week of school; the assessment will be part of the student's first quarter grade.
- Students enrolled in high honors English will receive an assignment from their teacher. We hope these students will enjoy books on this list as well as completing the HH assignment.

**Students are encouraged to use the Book Data Sheet as they read. This sheet is intended to support students in organizing and remembering information.**

### **Book Choices:**

*American Born Chinese*, Gene Luen Yang (graphic novel)  
*Dog On It: A Chet and Bernie Mystery*, Spencer Quinn  
*Hole in My Life*, Jack Gantos (memoir)  
*Icecore*, Matt Whyman  
*Life as We Knew It*, Susan Pfeffer  
*Looking for Alaska*, John Green  
*Mexican White Boy*, Matt de la Pena  
*What I Saw and How I Lied*, Judy Blundell

***You and your parents are the best judges of what book is best for you. Consider all of your options before deciding which books to choose.***

**Copies of the summer reading titles are available at the LHS library and may be obtained during summer school hours. To borrow a copy, bring an ID or a parent with an ID. Reading lists have also been shared with the Pollard Library and local bookstores.**

## **Book Descriptions:**

Book descriptions borrowed and adapted from amazon.com

***American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang:*** In this graphic novel, “As alienated kids go, Jin Wang is fairly run-of-the-mill: he eats lunch by himself in a corner of the schoolyard, gets picked on by bullies and jocks and develops a sweat-inducing crush on a pretty classmate. And, oh, yes, his parents are from Taiwan. This story about growing up different is more than just the story of a Chinese-American childhood; it's a fable for every kid born into a body and a life they wished they could escape.”

***Dog On It: A Chet and Bernie Mystery, Spencer Quinn:*** “Chet, a lively mongrel with one white ear and one black ear, serves as the book's narrator, communicating with Bert via doggy methods that verge on the telepathic. Wealthy divorcée Cynthia Chambliss hires Bernie, a former cop, to find her missing 15-year-old daughter, Madison, whose father is a real estate developer who smells suspiciously of cat. When Madison reappears and disappears again, her dad says she's just a runaway, though Bernie thinks otherwise. Chet must use all his superdog tricks to extricate Bernie from a mighty tight fix in a climax that fans of classic mysteries are sure to appreciate.”

***Hole in My Life, Jack Gantos:*** “The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.” *This book contains some graphic language and content.* (840L)

***Iccore, Matt Whyman:*** “He's a seventeen-year-old British computer hacker who penetrated the security systems at Fort Knox for a laugh. But the American government was less than amused. Since his prank, gold bars have been landing in the hands of terrorists across the globe. Now, Carl has found himself in a military prison deep in the Arctic and far off the grid. He's been caged alongside the world's most notorious terrorists, with no one to trust and no end in sight. Carl Hobbes may not be a criminal mastermind, but if he wants to escape this subzero prison with his life, he'll have to start thinking like one.”

***Life as We Knew It, Susan Pfeffer:*** “The prospect of an asteroid hitting the Moon is just a mildly interesting news item to Pennsylvania teenager Miranda. Her priorities undergo a radical change, however, when that collision shifts the Moon into a closer orbit, causing violent earthquakes, massive tsunamis, millions of deaths, and an upsurge in volcanism. Utilities and public services break down in stages, wild storms bring extremes of temperature, and outbreaks of disease turn the hospital into a dead zone. In Miranda's day-by-day journal entries, however, Pfeffer keeps nearly all of the death and explicit violence offstage, focusing instead on the stresses of spending months huddled in increasingly confined quarters, watching supplies dwindle, and wondering whether there will be any future to make the effort worthwhile.” (770L)

***Looking for Alaska, John Green:*** “Sixteen-year-old Miles Halter's adolescence has been one long nonevent - no challenge, no girls, no mischief, and no real friends. Seeking the "Great Perhaps," he leaves Florida for a boarding school in Birmingham, AL. His roommate, Chip, is a dirt-poor genius scholarship student with a Napoleon complex who lives to one-up the school's rich preppies. Chip's best friend is Alaska Young, with whom Miles and every other male in her orbit falls instantly in love. She is literate, articulate, and beautiful, and she exhibits a reckless combination of adventurous and self-destructive behavior. The chapters of the novel are headed by a number of days "before" and "after" what readers surmise is Alaska's suicide.” (930L) *This novel contains graphic language and mature content.*

***Mexican White Boy, Matt de la Pena:*** “No matter where he lives, 16-year-old Danny Lopez is an outsider. At his private high school in wealthy northern San Diego County, ‘nobody paid him any attention...because he was Mexican.’ It didn't matter that he was half white. But when he visits the Mexican side of his family in National City, just a dozen miles from the border, Danny feels ‘Albino almost’ and ashamed. He decides to spend the summer in National City, hoping to get closer to his dad's roots and learn how to be ‘real’ and stop feeling numb. Instead, he finds that, by the end of the summer, he has filled the void through unexpected friendship and love. In this first-rate exploration of self-identity, Danny's growth as a baseball pitcher becomes a metaphor for the conflicts he must overcome due to his biracial heritage.” *This book contains some graphic language and content.*

***What I Saw and How I Lied, Judy Blundell:*** “In this sophisticated thriller, 15-year-old Evie grows up quickly when she discovers her adored parents are not the people she thought they were. While on vacation in Palm Beach in 1947, Evie's parents, Joe and Bev, get involved in a shady business deal with the Graysons, another couple on holiday. Meanwhile, Evie begins a flirtation with Peter, a handsome ex-GI who served with Joe and just happens to be staying at their hotel. Evie soon learns that Peter's presence is no coincidence and that he threatens to uncover a terrible secret that Joe has kept since the war.” (620L)

L=Lexile Level