



Lowell High School Summer Reading Program Incoming Grade 12

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 Advanced Placement English and Dual Enrollment – English Composition will receive an assignment from their teacher. We hope these students will enjoy books on this list as well as completing these required assignments.

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:

Black Swan Green, David Mitchell

City of Thieves, David Benioff

Finding Nouf, Zoe Ferraris

A Great and Terrible Beauty, Libba Bray

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

I am the Messenger, Markus Zusak

Paper Towns, John Green

When Broken Glass Floats, Chanrithy Him (memoir)

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

Black Swan Green, David Mitchell: “Thirteen chapters provide a monthly snapshot of Jason Taylor's life in small-town England from January 1982 to January 1983. Whether the 13-year-old narrator is battling his stammer or trying to navigate the social hierarchy of his schoolmates or watching the slow disintegration of his parents' marriage, he relates his story in a voice that is achingly true to life.”

City of Thieves, David Benioff: “Having elected to stay in Leningrad during the siege, 17-year-old Lev Beniov is caught looting a German paratrooper's corpse. The penalty for this infraction is execution. But when Colonel Grechko confronts Lev and Kolya, a Russian army deserter also facing execution, he spares them on the condition that they acquire a dozen eggs for the colonel's daughter's wedding cake. Their mission exposes them to the most ghoulish acts of the starved populace and takes them behind enemy lines to the Russian countryside. There, Lev and Kolya take on an even more daring objective: to kill the commander of the local occupying German forces.”

Finding Nouf, Zoe Ferraris: “This mystery, set in contemporary Saudi Arabia, centers on Nouf ash-Shrawi, a 16-year-old girl who disappeared into the desert three days before her marriage and has been found dead, several weeks pregnant. Palestinian Nayir al-Sharqi who lives in Jeddah and works occasionally for the rich Shrawi family, is asked by them to investigate Nouf's death discreetly. Nayir, a conservative Muslim and an outsider because of his nationality, his class and his large stature, is wary of traversing the wide gulf between Saudi men's and women's worlds, and is encouraged by his friend Othman, an adopted son of the Shrawis, to seek out the help of Katya Hijazi, Othman's fiancée. As Nayir and Katya's investigation progresses, it becomes clear that at least one of the Shrawis has something to hide.”

A Great and Terrible Beauty, Libba Bray: “Gemma, 16, has had an unconventional upbringing in India, until the day she foresees her mother's death in a black, swirling vision that turns out to be true. Sent back to England, she is enrolled at Spence, a girls' academy with a mysterious burned-out East Wing. There Gemma is snubbed by powerful Felicity, beautiful Pippa, and even her own dumpy roommate Ann, until she blackmails herself and Ann into the treacherous clique. One night she is led by a child-spirit to find a diary that reveals the secrets of a mystical Order. The clique soon finds a way to accompany Gemma to the other-world realms of her visions "for a bit of fun" and to taste the power they will never have as Victorian wives, but they discover that the delights of the realms are overwhelmed by a menace they cannot control. Gemma is left with the knowledge that her role as the link between worlds leaves her with a mission to seek out the "others" and rebuild the Order.”

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows: “The letters comprising this novel begin in 1946, when single, 30-something author Juliet Ashton writes to her publisher to say she is tired of covering the sunny side of war and its aftermath. When Guernsey farmer Dawsey Adams finds Juliet's name in a used book and invites articulate—and not-so-articulate—neighbors to write Juliet with their stories, the book's epistolary circle widens, putting Juliet back in the path of war stories.”

I Am the Messenger, Markus Zusak: “When hapless cabdriver Ed Kennedy offhandedly stops a bank robbery, someone takes notice. The Ace of Diamonds appears in his mailbox with three addresses written on it. Ed is supposed to deliver a message to these addresses, but no one is telling him what that message is. All he is told is that his life depends on it.” *This book contains some graphic language.*(640L)

Paper Towns, John Green: Weeks before graduating from their Orlando-area high school, Quentin Jacobsen's childhood best friend, Margo, reappears in his life, specifically at his window, commanding him to take her on an all-night, score-settling spree. Quentin has loved Margo from not so afar (she lives next door), years after she ditched him for a cooler crowd. Just as suddenly, she disappears again, and the plot's considerable tension derives from Quentin's mission to find out if she's run away or committed suicide. Quentin thinks she's left him a clue in a highlighted volume of *Leaves of Grass*. (850L) *This book contains some graphic language and content.*

When Broken Glass Floats, Chanrithy Him: “Born in Cambodia in 1965, Him lived from the age of three with the fear of war overflowing from neighboring Vietnam and suffered through the U.S.'s bombing of her native land. However, thanks to her loving and open-minded family, her outlook remained positive--until 1975, when the Khmer Rouge seized control and turned her world upside down.”