



Lowell High School Summer Reading Program Incoming Grade 9

Welcome to Lowell High School! You will soon learn that LHS 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 are eager for you to join our community. 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 **required** to read at least **ONE** book from our list. These students will be tested by their English teacher during the second week of school; the assessment will be part of the students' first quarter grade.
- Students enrolled in an honors level English course are **required** to read **TWO** selections from our list. 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 the Lyceum or High Honors English are **required** to read **TWO** selections from our list; one of these must be *The Book Thief*. 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 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:

**The Book Thief*, Marcus Zusak
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon
Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage, and Triumph by Travis Roy (memoir)
Hope Was Here, Joan Bauer
The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer
The Rules of Survival, Nancy Werlin
Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie, David Lubar
Thirteen Reasons Why, Jay Asher
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith
Twisted, Laurie Halse Anderson

* = Lyceum and High Honors required reading

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 Pollard Library, the Lowell High School Library and the Rogers School. Books at the LHS library 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 local bookstores.

Book Descriptions:

Book descriptions borrowed and adapted from amazon.com

****The Book Thief, Marcus Zusak***

“Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends” (730L) **This book is required for Lyceum and High Honors students.**

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon

“When his neighbor's poodle is killed, Christopher Boone-, an autistic 15-year old, is falsely accused of the crime. He decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer.” (*This book contains some graphic language.*) (1180L)

Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage, and Triumph, Travis Roy and E.M. Swift

“In October 1995, ready to play his first game as a member of the Boston University hockey team, Travis Roy looked forward to the biggest day of his life. It was big but for all the wrong reasons. Eleven seconds into the game, he cracked his fourth vertebra and was paralyzed from the neck down. With coauthor Swift, Roy tells the inspirational story of his life after the accident.”

Hope Was Here, Joan Bauer

“Ever since the boss promoted her from bus girl two and a half years ago when she was 14, Hope has been a waitress--and a darn good one, too. She and her Aunt Addie, a diner cook extraordinaire, have been a pair ever since Hope's waitress mother abandoned her as a baby. They have come to rural Wisconsin to run the Welcome Stairways café for G.T. Stoop, who is dying of leukemia. But he's not dead yet, as the kindly and greathearted restaurant owner demonstrates when he decides to run for mayor against the wicked and corrupt Eli Millstone. The campaign leads Hope in exciting new directions.” (710L)

The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer

“A scientist brings to life one of 36 tiny cells, frozen more than 100 years ago. The result is the protagonist at the novel's center. Matt, a clone of El Patron, a powerful drug lord, is born to a poor family in a small village in Mexico. El Patron is ruler of Opium, a country that lies between the United States and Aztlan, formerly Mexico; its vast poppy fields are tended by eejits, human beings who attempted to flee Aztlan, programmed by a computer chip implanted in their brains.” (660L)

Rules of Survival, Nancy Werlin

“Narrated by 17-year-old Matt as a letter to his youngest sister, Emmy, *The Rules of Survival* is his effort to come to terms with the vicious treatment he and his two sisters suffered at the hands of Nikki, their beautiful and unpredictable mother.” (660L)

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie, David Lubar

“Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Scott Hudson decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips to pass along to his new sibling. Overloaded with extracurricular activities and honors homework, he begins a journal filled with lists and tips for his expected sibling on how to survive freshman year.” (560L)

Thirteen Reasons Why, Jay Asher

“When Clay Jenson plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. He's one of 13 people who receive Hannah's story, which details the circumstances that led to her suicide. Clay spends the rest of the day and long into the night listening to Hannah's voice and going to the locations she wants him to visit.” (550L)

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith

“Francie Nolan has much to ponder in colorful, turn-of-the-century Brooklyn. She grows up with a sweet, tragic father, a severely realistic mother, and a brother who will always be the favored child. Francie learns early the meaning of hunger and the value of a penny. Like the Tree of Heaven that grows out of cement, Francie struggles against all odds to survive and thrive.” (810L)

Twisted

“Tyler Miller was a socially invisible nerd before he sprayed some attention-getting graffiti and became a legend. Sentenced to a summer of physical labor, he enters his senior year with new muscles that attract popular Bethany Millbury, whose father is Tyler's dad's boss. On probation for his graffiti stunt, Tyler struggles to balance his consuming crush with pressure that comes from schoolwork and his explosive father, and after Tyler is implicated in a drunken crime, his balancing act falls apart.” (680L)

L=Lexile Level