

Pittsburgh Public Schools Summer Reading List



Young Adults Summer 2010



Pittsburgh
Public Schools

EXCELLENCE
FOR ALL

The Pathway to the Promise.™

The Pathway to the Promise.™

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Dr. Linda Lane, Deputy Superintendent

May 2010

Dear Pittsburgh Public School Students:

Summer is almost here and with it comes the end of the regular school year.

I hope that you are planning to take advantage of summer learning opportunities being offered through Pittsburgh Public Schools, such as Summer Learning Camp for students in K-4, and the new Summer Dreamers Academy for students who are finishing grades 5-7. The Secondary Summer School program also helps high school students stay on the *Pathways to the Promise™* through credit recovery and other offerings.

You can also keep learning during the summer by reading. The enclosed Summer Reading List will help you find books that match your interests. If you want more suggestions, ask your teacher-librarian or the librarian at your nearest Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh for ideas. They will be happy to help.

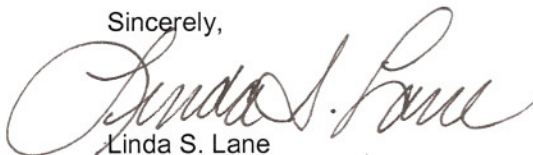
All local branches of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh have copies of the Summer Reading Lists for all grades, and they have – or can get – copies of the books you choose. Library cards are free, if you don't have one.

The Summer Reading List also includes a reading log. The log is easy to fill out, and it lets you track each book you read so that your summer reading can count towards next year's goal of reading 25 books. You can also use your log to talk about your favorite stories with your friends.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has planned an exciting event to launch the Pittsburgh Summer Reading Program. **On Sunday, June 6th, the 10th annual Summer Reading Extravaganza will be held from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Oakland.** They have programs for all ages, and I encourage you and your family to stop by.

Have a wonderful summer, and don't forget to put reading on your summer "To Do" list!

Sincerely,



Linda S. Lane

Branches of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh operates 19 neighborhood locations including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Each neighborhood library is staffed with exceptional employees who are dedicated to assisting their customers. The Library also offers Summer Reading Programs for children, teens and adults.

Visit <http://www.carnegielibrary.org>, or your local CLP location, to learn about the Summer Reading Program or for information regarding library cards and other services.

Main Library
4400 Forbes Ave.
412.622.3114

Allegheny
1210 Federal St.
412.237.1890

Beechview
1910 Broadway Ave.
412.563.2900

Brookline
708 Brookline Blvd.
412.561.1003

Carrick
1811 Brownsville Rd.
412.882.3897

Downtown & Business
612 Smithfield St.
412.281.7141

East Liberty (*closed for renovations through the summer of 2010*)
130 S. Whitfield St.
412.363.8232

Hazelwood
4901 Second Ave.
412.421.2517

Hill District
2177 Centre Ave. at
Kirkpatrick St.
412.281.3753

Homewood
7101 Hamilton Ave.
412.731.3080

Knoxville
400 Brownsville Rd.
412.381.6543

Lawrenceville
279 Fisk St.
412.682.3668

Mt. Washington
315 Grandview Ave.
412.381.3380

Sheraden
720 Sherwood Ave.
412.331.1135

South Side
2205 East Carson St.
412.431.0505

Squirrel Hill
5801 Forbes Ave.
412.422.9650

West End
47 Wabash Ave.
412.921.1717

Woods Run
1201 Woods Run Ave.
412.761.3730

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Leonard C. Staisey Bldg.
4724 Baum Blvd.
412.687.2440 800.242.0586

Summer Reading List Young Adults

- Abdel-Fattah, Randa** * [Does My Head Look Big In This?](#)
Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith -- without losing her identity or sense of style
- Alexie, Sherman** [The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian.](#)
Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, was born an outsider with water on his brain, lopsided eyes, and an IQ oppressed by extreme poverty and a mediocre reservation education. After switching to an all-white high school he realizes that though he'll never easily fit in, self-determination and a solid personal identity will give him the chance to both succeed and transcend.
- Anderson, Laure Halse** * [Wintergirls](#)
Lia is haunted by her best friend's death from bulimia, as she struggles with her own eating disorder
- Anderson, Laure Halse** * [Chains](#)
After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.
- Bagdasarian, Adam** [Forgotten Fire: A Novel.](#)
"Who will remember the Armenians?" Hitler asked, referencing the Armenian genocide as his inspiration for the final solution. This brutal hidden chapter of history is seen through the eyes of 12-year-old survivor Vahan Kendarian, whose world was shattered within a matter of days.
- Beah, Ishmael** [A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.](#) (non-fiction)
A Long Way Gone is the riveting, firsthand account of Ishmael Beah, a 12-year-old child soldier, hopped up on drugs and wielding an AK-47, who gets swept up in the horrors of civil war in his African homeland.
- Bennett, Cherie** * [Anne Frank and Me](#)
After suffering a concussion while on a class trip to a Holocaust exhibit, Nicole finds herself living the life of a Jewish teenager in Paris during the Nazi occupation.
- Bernier-Grand, Carmen** [Frida: Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!](#) (non-fiction)
In twenty-six original, free-verse poems the author depicts the thoughts, feelings, and life events of Mexican self-portraitist Frida Kahlo. The poems are accompanied by twenty-four full-color reproductions of Kahlo's paintings. Substantial background materials include a biographical sketch, chronology, and glossary.
- Card, Orson Scott** [Ender's Game](#) (series)
In order to develop a secure defense against the next attack by the Buggers, a hostile alien race, the earth's military drafts child geniuses and trains them as officers of the space fleet at its orbiting Battle School. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin is drafted to the Battle School for rigorous military training, becomes the most celebrated student and military leader ever. His brother and sister – both brilliant – never made it into Battle School (one for being sadistic and the other for being too nice), work to keep the earth out of another giant world war. Winner of the Hugo and Nebula Awards.
- Cashore, Kristin** * [Graceling](#)
In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace, the Grace of killing. She teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.
- Cashore, Kristin** * [Fire](#)
In a kingdom called the Dells, Fire is the last human-shaped monster, with unimaginable beauty and the ability to control the minds of those around her. Even with these gifts she cannot escape the strife that overcomes her world.

Don't forget to ask your teacher-librarian or your librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh for more suggestions.

Please visit *Educational Resources and Links* at <http://www.pps.k12.pa.us>

Summer Reading List

Young Adults

- Collins, Suzanne** * **Catching Fire** (sequel to Hunger Games)
By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families. Because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion. This sequel has many references to The Hunger Games. This book is the second in a trilogy.
- Colfer, Eoin** **The Supernaturalist**
In futuristic Satellite City, fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from an abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures. Together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans.
- Crowe, Chris** * **Getting Away With Murder: the True Story of the Emmett Till Case** (non-fiction)
This book presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955.
- Draper, Sharon M.** **The Battle of Jericho**
A high school junior and his cousin suffer the ramifications of joining what seems to be a "reputable" school club. (Ask your librarian for suggestions for additional titles to read by Sharon Draper.)
- Flake, Sharon** **Who Am I Without Him**
A collection of short stories about teenage girls and the issues they must deal with in their relationships with boys. (Ask your librarian for additional popular titles by Sharon Flake.)
- Flake, Sharon** * **You Don't Even Know Me: Stories and Poems About Boys**
In 9 stories and 13 poems, Sharon G. Flake gives readers insight into the minds of a diverse group of adolescent African American males. The unforgettable characters come to life in this poignant, funny and often searing collection of urban male voices..
- Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell** **The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them** (non-fiction)
Inspired by reading The Diary of Anne Frank and meeting Zlata Filipovic (the eleven-year old girl who wrote of her life in Sarajevo during the civil war), the students began a joint diary of their inner-city upbringings. Told through anonymous entries to protect their identities and allow for complete candor, The Freedom Writers Diary is filled with astounding vignettes from 150 students who, like civil rights activist Rosa Parks and the Freedom Riders, heard society tell them where to go—and refused to listen.
- Gaiman, Neil** **Coraline: The Graphic Novel**
When Coraline steps through a door in her family's new house, she finds another house, strangely similar to her own (only better). At first, things seem marvelous. The food is better than at home, and the toy box is filled with fluttering wind-up angels and dinosaur skulls that crawl and rattle their teeth. But there's another mother and father there, and they want her to stay and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Coraline will have to fight with all her wit and all the tools she can find if she is to save herself and return to her ordinary life.
- Giles, Gail** **Playing in Traffic**
Shy and unremarkable, seventeen-year-old Matt Lathrop is surprised and flattered to find himself singled out for the sexual attentions of the alluring Skye Colby, until he discovers the evil purpose behind her actions.
- Going, Kelly** **Fat Kid Rules the World**
Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly three hundred pounds, gets a new perspective on life when Curt, a semi-homeless teen who is a genius on guitar, asks Troy to be the drummer in a rock band.

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- Greenberg, Jan** **Heart to Heart:**
New Poems Inspired by Twentieth-Century American Art. (non-fiction)
Can a painting speak? This collection of lyrical responses to famous American works of art provides answers.
- Griffin, Paul** * **The Orange Houses**
Tamika, a fifteen-year-old hearing-impaired girl, Jimmi, an eighteen-year-old veteran who stopped taking his antipsychotic medication, and sixteen-year-old Fatima, an illegal immigrant from Africa, meet and connect in their Bronx, New York, neighborhood, with devastating results.
- Haddon, Mark** **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.**
Christopher has two mysteries to solve: who killed Wellington the dog and what happened to his mother. Christopher, who has Asperger Syndrome, a form of autism, approaches these mysteries and the world itself in a unique and special way.
- Hemphill, Stephanie** **Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath.** (non-fiction)
Hemphill creates a chronological biography in verse format from the viewpoint of others in Plath's life. This is a worthy homage to Plath as her legend lives on.
- Henderson, J.A.** **Bunker 10**
At eight o'clock in the evening, 24 December 2007, Pinewood Military Installation exploded. No official cause was given for the incident. Inside Pinewood were 185 male and female personnel—a mixture of scientists and soldiers. There were also seven teenagers. This is the story of their last day... Bunker 10 is a high-octane thriller perfect for fans of video games, science fiction, and television shows like "24."
- Hulme, John** * **The Seems** (Series)
The Glitch in Sleep (#1); The Split Second (#2); The Lost Train of Thought (#3)
When a display box catches Becker Drane's eye and encourages him to "apply for the best job in the world," he does. Up until now he was an average 12 year-old school boy. Now he now leads a double life and is a secret agent for "The Seems" an underworld organization that controls everything that happens in 'The World'. These books are fast paced, action packed adventures that will please any fantasy reader. The Fixers' motto is "Live to Fix, Fix to Live."
- Karim, Sheba** * **Skunk Girl**
Nina is torn between the world of her Muslim heritage and the culture of her American school friends. Her description of family life is told with humor. It allows the reader to view the difficulties confronting a Pakistani-Muslim girl living in a world that allows girls much more freedom and choice than her faith and family permit.
- Kluger, Steve** * **My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park**
Three teenagers in Boston narrate their experiences of a year of new friendships, first loves, and coming into their own.
- Korman, Gordon** * **The Juvie Three**
Gecko, Arjay, and Terence, all in trouble with the law, must find a way to keep their halfway house open in order to stay out of juvenile detention.
- Lockhart, E.** * **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks**
Frankie attends a private school where she is excluded from her boyfriend's all-male secret society. She wants to get even, so she pulls a series of masterful pranks, letting the blame fall on the boys. The story is humorous and fast-paced. National Book Award finalist & Printz Award Honor book
- McCormick, Patricia** **Sold**
When 13-year-old Lakshmi is sold into prostitution by her stepfather, she ends up in a brothel in the slums of Calcutta, where her life becomes a nightmare from which she cannot escape. Although a novel, this story reflects a situation that many girls around the world endure today.
- McDonald, Janet** **Harlem Hustle**
Eric "Hustle" Samson, a smart and street-wise seventeen-year-old dropout from Harlem, aspires to rap stardom, a dream he naively believes is about to come true

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- Mussi, Sarah** * **The Door of No Return**
Sixteen-year-old Zac never believed his grandfather's tales about their enslaved ancestors being descended from an African king. When his grandfather is murdered and the villains come after Zac, he sets out for Ghana to find King Baktu's long-lost treasure before the murderers do.
- Myers, Walter Dean** **Sunrise Over Fallujah.**
Robin believes in his country and volunteers to fight in Iraq; but when he arrives he realizes that fighting for freedom is not always black and white. (Ask your librarian to suggest more titles by Walter Dean Myers.)
- Nix, Garth** **Keys to the Kingdom** (Books in the series include: Mister Monday; Grim Tuesday; Drowned Wednesday; Sir Thursday; Lady Friday; Superior Saturday; and Lord Sunday.)
Although Arthur Penhaligon is supposed to die an early death, he is saved by a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock. Now some bizarre creatures--including Mister Monday, his avenging messengers, and an army of dog-faced Fetchers--will stop at nothing to get the key back.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab** * **19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East** (non-fiction)
A collection of sixty poems in which the Arab-American author examines life in the Middle East.
- Parker, Robert B.** **The Boxer and the Spy**
Terry is an aspiring boxer who feels that a classmate's death just doesn't make sense. With the help of his friend, Abby, Terry learns that the death of his classmate is just the beginning of a political scheme that echoes throughout his school administration and his community.
- Plum-Ucci, Carol** **The Body of Christopher Creed**
This title is a credible look at alienation, loyalty, compassion, and cruelty among young adults and adults. Torey Adams, a junior in high school seems to have the perfect life, but he constantly struggling with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of an outcast classmate.
- Roach, Mary. Stiff** **The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers.** (non-fiction)
Discover the amazing life-after-death adventures of human bodies in this examination of how medical and research scientists use cadavers to make our lives better.
- Satrapi, Marjane** **Persepolis** (graphic novel, non-fiction)
Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. She is the intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors. This book paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family.
- Sebold, Alice** * **Lovely Bones**
Fourteen-year-old Suzie Salmon is a victim of foul play. She has been brutally murdered and buried by her neighbor. As she tells her story from "heaven," she watches as her friends and family deal with her tragic death and try to discover her killer. This is a suspenseful and touching story about love and life.
- Schlosser, Eric and Charles Wilson** **Chew on This** (non-fiction)
From the same author as Fast Food Nation, a look at the history of fast food, what's in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies.
- Shusterman, Neal** **The Schwa Was Here**
A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.

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Summer Reading List

Young Adults

- Smithson, Ryan** * **Ghosts of war: my tour of duty** (non-fiction)
Smithson experienced the events of 9/11 while in high school and responded by enlisting in the Army Reserve after graduation. When deployed to Iraq, he worked as an equipment operator in an equipment platoon. While mortar fire was a regular occurrence, the missions he describes were all about bulldozing berms, filling craters created by IEDs, and conveying lumber. One gruesome section describes salvaging parts from Humvees in which soldiers died. Some of the author's most poignant passages are his descriptions of interactions with Iraqi children. Where he was expecting rock-throwing, he encountered barefoot, dirty children grateful for the water the soldiers gave them. It is these children and the villagers he met who help explain for him the purpose of the war. The book ends with Smithson's return home, his almost magical escape from night terrors, and his work with children in his own hometown.
- Sones, Sonya** * **One of those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies**
Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt, and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born.
- Soto, Gary** * **The Afterlife**
A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance
- Tolkein, JRR** **Lord of the Rings** (1st in a trilogy)
A young hobbit named Frodo Baggins is suddenly given a great responsibility: possession of the Dark Lord's dangerously powerful Ring of Power, which he must take on a perilous journey to the Cracks of Doom, where it can be destroyed. (If you haven't yet read The Hobbit – the prequel to this trilogy – you might want to start with that book.)
- Werlin, Nancy** * **Impossible**
When 17-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes to break the curse she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born in order to save them both.
- Werlin, Nancy** * **Rules of Survival**
Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.
- Westerfeld, Scott** * **Leviathan**
Alek is a young Austrian Prince who is stolen away in the middle of the night by his father's confidants because his parents have just been assassinated. Deryn, or Dylan, a soldier in the British Air Service is really a young girl who passed for a boy to gain entrance and serves on the huge Darwinian airship that is part machine and part living creature called the Leviathan.
- Westerfeld, Scott** **Uglies** (4 book series. Uglies is followed by, Pretties, Specials, Extras)
As beauties, their only job is to have a great time. Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties, Tally's best friend runs away. Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all. (If you like this series, ask your librarian for some of Scott Westerfeld's other books, including Peeps.)
- Woodson, Jacqueline** **Hush**
Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds that her life changes when her family has to enter the witness protection program.
- Zarr, Sara** * **Once Was Lost**
As the tragedy of a missing girl unfolds in her small town, fifteen-year-old Samara, who feels emotionally abandoned by her parents, begins to question her faith.
- Zusak, Marcus** **The Book Thief.**
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

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Summer Reading List

(Student Log, Grades 6-12)

Photocopy this sheet or go to <http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/portal>
to download additional copies of the student log.

Student's name _____

Book # _____ Date finished: _____

Author (last name, first name) _____

Title _____

City of Publication _____ Publisher _____ Year of Publication _____

On the lines below, write a very short summary of the book, or why you'd recommend (or not recommend) the book to a friend. _____

Book # _____ Date finished: _____

Author (last name, first name) _____

Title _____

City of Publication _____ Publisher _____ Year of Publication _____

On the lines below, write a very short summary of the book, or why you'd recommend (or not recommend) the book to a friend. _____
