

Terryville High School
Summer Reading List 2009-2010
Incoming Students - Grades 11 & 12

Author	Title	Description
Bunting, Eve **	Jumping the Nail	A group of California teens gather to watch Scooter and his girlfriend, Elisa, jump the Nail. The Nail is a 90-foot cliff that leads down into the ocean and attempting it risks serious injury, and even death. <i>ALA Best Book for Young Adults</i>
Chambers, Aidan	Postcards From No Man's Land	Jacob goes to Amsterdam to find his grandfather's grave. There he meets Geertrui, a frail, Dutch woman who took care of his grandfather after he was wounded in battle. What follows is an intertwined narrative about love and discovery. <i>Carnegie Medal Winner</i> <i>Michael L. Printz Award 2003</i>
Chevalier, Tracy	Girl With a Pearl Earring	This historical novel tells the story of Greit, a 16 year old Dutch girl who becomes a maid in the house of the painter Johannes Vermeer.
Chopin, Kate	The Awakening	It is the story of Edna Pontellier's gradual awakening to her own physical and individual "being," and longing for independence that society would not permit her to live during the end of the 19th century.
Cisneros, Sandra	Caramelo	While traveling from Chicago to Mexico City, Celaya Reyes recounts her journey into young adulthood as a member of a multi-generational Mexican American family in the 1960's. <i>2004 International Dublin Literary Award</i>
Dickinson, Peter	The Ropemaker	When the magic that protects their Valley starts to fail, Tilja and her companions journey into the evil Empire to find the ancient magician Faheel, who originally cast those spells. <i>Printz Honor Book, 2002</i>

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Gaines, Ernest J.	A Lesson Before Dying	From the author of <i>A Gathering of Old Men</i> and <i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman</i> comes a deep and compassionate novel. A young man, who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach, visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting. <i>1992 National Book Critic's Award</i>
Hughes, Dean**	Soldier Boys	A harsh story about an American and German teen who join the war and cross each other's path at the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.
Farmer, Nancy	The House of the Scorpion	In a futuristic setting, Matt slowly realizes that he is the clone of a powerful, corrupt ruler of Opium, a country between the U.S. and Mexico. Disliked by society, Matt fights for the rights of clones, raising sociopolitical, ethical and scientific issues appropriate for today. <i>National Book Award, 2002</i> <i>Printz & Newberry Honor Book, 2003</i>
Friesen, Jonathan	Jerk, California	High School can be a rough time for any teen, but for Sam Carrier, it is torture. Because of his Tourette's syndrome, Sam is in near constant motion. He needs to find out about his real father and make sense of his life. Sam is determined to live his life on his own terms. <i>Schneider Family Book Award 2009</i>
Korman, Gordon**	Son of the Mob	When teenage Vince Luca, son of a mob boss, falls in love with the daughter of the FBI agent assigned to take down the Lucas family, his mob life becomes unusually complicated. <i>2005 Young Reader's Choice Award Winner</i>
Lynch, Chris	Freewill	A teenager trying to recover from the tragic death of his father and stepmother believes himself to be responsible for the rash of teen suicides occurring in his town. <i>Printz Honor Book, 2002</i>

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Marchetta, Melina	Jellicoe Road	Taylor was abandoned by her mother at age eleven. At seventeen, Taylor is being confronted by her mysterious past. She needs to search for the truth in order to change her future. <i>Michael L. Printz Award 2009 Winner</i>
Mazer, Harry **	A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor	On a fateful day in Honolulu, Adam Pelko goes against his father's wishes to stay away from his friend, Davi Mori. From a fishing boat the two boys witness a tragic bombing.
McBride, James	The Color of Water	Written in remembrance of his Polish-born, Southern-raised Jewish mother, who married a black man and raised twelve children, all of whom completed college- <i>The Color of Water</i> is a classic of the memoir genre, a testament to love, and a truly American story.
Na, An	A Step From Heaven	A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America. <i>Michael L. Printz Award, 2001</i> <i>National Book Award Finalist</i>
Nelson, Pete	Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis	Two history lessons run concurrently through this exciting, life-affirming book about war heroics and justice. While watching the classic bragging scene in the movie <i>Jaws</i> , 11-year-old Hunter Scott grew curious about one character's reference to the U.S.S. <i>Indianapolis</i> . Scott began a six-year crusade, gathering information from the survivors in order to tell their story.
O'Brien, Tim	The Things They Carried	An unforgettable collection of short stories about American soldiers in the Vietnam War. <i>Pulitzer Prize finalist & National Book Critics Circle Award</i>
Orr, Wendy	Peeling the Onion	Following an automobile accident in which her neck is broken, a teenage karate champion begins a long and painful recovery with the help of her family.

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Philbrick, Nathaniel	In the Heart of the Sea	The year was 1819, when the Essex, a whaling ship, was sunk in the middle of the Pacific by an 80-foot sperm whale. This is a true story of New England whaling and hardships that inspired Melville's <i>Moby Dick</i> . <i>2000 National Book Award</i>
Plath, Sylvia	The Bell Jar	In telling her own story of the summer, fall, and winter of 1953-1954, Plath, through the character of Esther, introduces us to her mother, her boyfriend Buddy, her fellow student editors, college and home-town acquaintances, and fellow patients as she details the events surrounding her depression, attempted suicide and hospital stay.
Tinti, Hannah	The Good Thief	This strange and alluring adventure story takes place in Colonial New England. A one-handed orphan boy is adopted by a con artist, and enters an underworld of ruthless mousetrap-manufacturing barons, feisty chimney-dwelling dwarves, and, perhaps most terrifying of all, black-market dentists. Will the boy ever discover the truth of his past? It's good fun watching him find out. <i>2009 Alex Award</i>
Wittlinger, Ellen **	Razzle	When his retired parents buy a group of tourist cabins on Cape Cod, fifteen-year-old Kenyon Baker's days are filled with repair work until he becomes friends with an eccentric girl and makes her the subject of a series of photographs.
Wolff, Virginia Euwer	True Believer	Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it. <i>Printz Honor Book, 2002</i>