

# RHAM HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST 2010

June 2010

Dear RHAM Students,

Summertime has finally arrived! The best thing about summer is that we have time to relax and read good books. For your reading pleasure, we are pleased to share with you the 2010 Edition of the RHAM High School Summer Reading List.

We have worked diligently to provide you with a new and improved list of classic and contemporary titles that appeal to teenagers like yourselves. Like last year, **all RHAM students are required to read at least TWO selections from the reading list.** One of these selections must be for your English class; the second selection will be determined by the other courses in which you are enrolled.

- Freshmen enrolled in both Freshman English and General Science must read one selection from each of those lists.
- Sophomores enrolled in English 10 and Biology must read one selection from each of those lists.
- Juniors enrolled in English 11 and United States History must read one from each of those lists.
- Seniors enrolled in either a full year or two one-semester English courses must read two selections from the Senior English list, one selection from the list of contemporary titles, the other from the list of classic titles.

We have also worked diligently to make the summer reading list user-friendly. For your convenience, we have included an appendix which lists the reading requirements for selected honors and AP courses. We have included brief annotations to help you in selecting books that are both appealing and appropriate for you. The \* next to a title indicates that this title may be borrowed through RHAM's English Department for the summer. Also, ♻ denotes that the book is available on audiotape. The reading list has been posted on the RHAM High School website at [www.rhamhs.reg8.k12.ct.us](http://www.rhamhs.reg8.k12.ct.us) and copies have also been sent to local libraries and bookstores.

In September, your teachers will use a variety of creative assignments designed to elicit thoughtful reflection. These will be graded and will be included in your first quarter grade.

As you begin your summer, we suggest that you carry this reading list with you. Put it in an easily accessible place, like your handbag or the glove compartment of your car. The list contains many fascinating books which will help you wile away the summer hours. Share it with your parents. Make reading a family affair. Enjoy.

Marc Paluso, Social Studies teacher  
Art Kevorkian, Library Media Specialist  
Stephanie Lichatz, Science teacher  
Pat Lawson, English teacher

Debbie Anger, English teacher  
Danielle Mooney, Special Education teacher  
Meg Coffey, English teacher

**SENIOR ENGLISH STUDENTS**  
**READ ONE CONTEMPORARY AND ONE CLASSIC NOVEL**

**SENIORS TAKING AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION, UCONN ENGLISH, OR SPANISH V, SEE APPENDIX FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

***Contemporary List:*** (select one from this list)

*Armageddon in Retrospect* by Kurt Vonnegut ☞

This published posthumously work is a collection of twelve new and previously unpublished stories about war and its effects which displays Vonnegut's characteristic wry sense of humor and haunting insight into the human condition.

*Going Postal* by Terry Pratchett ☞

The Disc World Series continues with this humorous tale of a criminal who is pardoned from death on the condition that he serve as a government employee.

*Handle with Care* by Jodi Picoult ☞

Picoult explores medical ethics, family and personal morality in her most recent work. Parents of a disabled child named Willow, Charlotte and Sean O'Keefe question whether their daughter should have been born.

*The Hundred Secret Senses* by Amy Tan ☞

This haunting tale of love and ghosts addresses the question of whether love can go beyond "till death do us part."

*The Innocent Man* by John Grisham ☞

Through the true story of Ron Williamson, the author explores the injustices in our criminal justice system.

*Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn ☞

The narrator, a disillusioned writer, develops a deeper understanding of the human condition and culture through an ongoing Socratic dialogue with a learned gorilla named Ishmael.

*Like the Red Panda* by Andrea Seigal

Stella talks about her last two weeks in high school and her struggles in balancing her AP exams, the competition with her peers, and boys.

*The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown ☞

The protagonist Robert Langdon unravels a mystery in Washington, D. C. thwarting the nefarious villain Mal'akh from learning ancient secrets which will allow him to rule the world.

*Low Boy* by John Wray ☞

Will Heller, a 16-year old paranoid schizophrenic off his meds, sets out on an odyssey to singlehandedly rescue the world from destruction as a result of global warming.

*Missing Mom* by Joyce Carol Oates ☞

This compassionate and compelling story describes a young woman's life after the unexpected loss of her mother.

*My Losing Season: A Memoir* by Pat Conroy ☞

The true story of Conroy's 1966-67 basketball season at the Citadel deals with the beneficial aspects of losing.

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini ☞

Set in war-torn Afghanistan, this story follows two generations of women in their struggles to find happiness.

*The True Story of Hansel and Gretel* by Louise Murphy

The author transforms the classic fairy tale into a haunting story of two children surviving in WWII Poland.

*Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen ☞

A veterinary student recounts his experiences with the wonderful and horrible aspects of life with a traveling circus.

***Classic List:*** (select one from this list)

*Bless the Beasts and the Children* by Glendon Swarthout 🗣️\*

This novel tells the story of a group of misfit children, called the Bedwetters, and their efforts to prove that they are able to achieve success.

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley 🗣️\*

Originally written in 1932, this novel predicts the future which includes people who are genetically designed to be passive and therefore consistently useful to the ruling class.

*Catch 22* by Joseph Heller 🗣️\*

The novel is a satire that describes the murderous insanity of war as nothing less than a rite of passage.

*Hunchback of Notre Dame* by Victor Hugo 🗣️\*

Victor Hugo writes the story of Quasimodo, a deformed man, who is believed to be evil. Yet beyond the deformities, he is a good person.

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte 🗣️

A Gothic romance, *Jane Eyre* is the story of an orphaned girl who, after securing a position as governess at Thornhill Manor, falls in love with Rochester, its owner.

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe 🗣️\*

A classic narrates the saga of an English sailor marooned on a desert island for nearly three decades.

*Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse 🗣️\*

*Siddhartha*, who is a Brahmin, is a young man searching for the truth in life. Although he is torn between the spiritual and the materialistic, the ascetic and the indulgent lifestyles, he has an epiphany by the end of the novel.

*Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas 🗣️\*

This story about a young nobleman who travels to Paris in hopes of joining the Musketeers, and a group of adventurers who serve King Louis XIII is filled with swordplay and treachery.

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne 🗣️\*

This classic novel chronicles the exploits of explorers Captain Nemo and Professor Aronnax aboard the *Nautilus* as they explore the vast regions below the sea.

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte 🗣️\*

Set on the moors of England, Bronte writes a foreboding story of obsessive love.

**JUNIOR ENGLISH STUDENTS**  
**READ ONE CLASSIC OR ONE CONTEMPORARY NOVEL**

**JUNIORS TAKING AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION, SEE APPENDIX FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

***Contemporary List:***

*The Almost Moon* by Alice Sebold 🗣️

Clair and Helen Knightly are mother and daughter locked in a relationship that ends in murder.

*The Beet Fields: Memories of a Sixteenth Summer* by Gary Paulsen

A boy describes his life during his sixteenth summer while working as a migrant worker.

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak 🗣️

A novel told by “Death” is about a young girl sent to live at a foster home in Germany during World War II, who struggles through the horrors of the war but still manages to treasure many small things like learning to read.

*Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister* by Gregory Maguire 🗨  
This story is a chilling revised version of *Cinderella*.

*Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron  
Myron writes a poignant tribute to a beloved feline who adopted a community.

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathon Safran Foer 🗨  
In this offbeat story, 9 year old Oskar Schell searches New York City to find the lock that matches a key left behind by his father, a victim of the 9/11 bombings.

*Ghost Soldiers: The Epic Account of World War II's Greatest Rescue Mission* by Hampton Sides 🗨  
Hampton Sides narrates the story of the heroic mission to rescue survivors of the Bataan death march who are held prisoner in the Philippines.

*Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls 🗨  
The author describes her life growing up in Arizona with her artist mother and inventor father and their non-traditional beliefs.

*A Gracious Plenty* by Sherri Reynolds 🗨  
In this poignant story, Finch Nobles, a young girl, ostracized because of burn scars, is able to commune with spirits of the dead.

*If I Die in a Combat Zone* by Tim O'Brien  
In this memoir, O'Brien recalls his days as a Vietnam War infantryman, and calls into question the definitions of “heroism” and “cowardice”.

*No Excuses!: The True Story of a Congenital Amputee Who Became a Champion in Wrestling and in Life* by Kyle Maynard  
This inspirational account details the life of a young man who defied all odds in his quest for success.

*Playing for Pizza* by John Grisham 🗨  
Third-string Cleveland Browns quarterback Rick Dockery leaves the U.S. to play in the only country that will give him a chance, Italy!

*Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo 🗨  
In this detailed look at World War I, Thomas Peaceful, who lies about his age to fight alongside his brother, details his experiences on the battlefield.

*Sold* by Patricia McCormick  
This is a story told through poetry about a girl from Nepal who is sold into prostitution.

*Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers 🗨  
“Birdy” Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's going – Iraq.

*They Cage the Animals at Night* by Jennings Michael Burch  
This detailed book describes the author's life as he is bounced from foster care to institutions while growing up.

*Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson  
Mortenson relays a true account of his mission to counteract extremism in the Pakistani breeding ground of the Taliban.

*Wishin' and Hopin': A Christmas Story* by Wally Lamb 🗨  
It's 1964 and ten year old Felix is sure of a few things: the birds and bees are puzzling, television is magical, and this will be one Christmas he'll never forget.

### **Classic List:**

*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord 🗨\*  
This nonfiction story is the tragic account of the night the Titanic sank.

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin 🗣️\*

Edna Pontellier, a wife and mother, yearns to change her stagnant life in pursuit of romance and art.

*Black Boy* by Richard Wright 🗣️

This powerful, stark memoir details the author's harsh experiences as a young black person growing up rural Mississippi, amidst widespread racial and economic prejudice.

*Black Like Me* by John Howard Griffin

Griffin relays a startling account of what happened when he darkened his skin and set out to experience life as an African American.

*A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway 🗣️\*

Set during WWI in Italy, a wounded American soldier named Frederick Henry falls in love with nurse Catherine Barkley.

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith\*

Francie, the protagonist, grows up in the slums of Brooklyn during the early part of the twentieth century.

*East of Eden* by John Steinbeck 🗣️\*

Steinbeck narrates a story of guilt and betrayal intertwined into a two generation sibling rivalry.

*Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury 🗣️\*

A collection of short stories tells about the colonization of Mars through humor, tragedy, and social commentary.

*The Natural* by Bernard Malamud 🗣️\*

Baseball player Roy Hobbes makes the mistake of pronouncing aloud his dream to be the best there ever was.

*Slaughter-House Five* by Kurt Vonnegut 🗣️\*

Billy Pilgrim, a former WWII POW, travels backward and forward in time as he attempts to come to grips with the horrors of war and his readjustment to civilian life.

## **U.S. HISTORY STUDENTS READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TITLES**

### **JUNIORS TAKING AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION, SEE APPENDIX FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

*Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Right and Murder in the Jazz Age* by Kevin Boyle 🗣️

In this story about the early Civil Rights movement, Kevin Boyle re-creates the Sweet family's inspirational journey from slavery through the Great Migration to the middle class.

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told by Alex Haley* by Attallah Shabazz, et al.

This autobiography addresses one of the most misunderstood figures in American History, Malcolm X, erroneously viewed as an evil racist hate-monger to the champion of modern day militant pro-Black radicals.

*Back to the Front* by Stephen O'Shea 🗣️

A journalist recounts, through a walking tour, the legacy of his grandfather's involvement on the Western front during World War I.

*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Alexander Brown 🗣️

The westward expansion of the United States is seen through the eyes of Native Americans.

*Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution* by Diane McWhorter

This book tells the story of the civil rights movement in Birmingham, Alabama, focusing on the two key events: the KKK bombing of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Church which killed four African-American girls and Bull Connors' use of police dogs and fire hoses to end a demonstration.

*The Cold War: A New History* by John L. Gaddis 🗣️

This is a concise history of the events of the Cold War intended for readers without significant background in the subject.

*Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery* by Anne Farrow, Joel Lang and Jenifer Frank

The true story deals with how the North expanded and profited from slavery.

*Diary of an Early American Boy* by Eric Sloane

The book is a reprint of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century diary of a 15 year-old farm boy's life in early Americana. The diary explains farming, milling, building, forging as well as the 19<sup>th</sup> century notion of courtly love.

*Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam* by Bernard Edelman

This book contains letters written by American soldiers during the Vietnam War.

*Dr. Seuss and Mr. Geisel: a Biography* by Judith Morgan and Neil Morgan

This biography addresses the life and times of Dr. Seuss (Ted Geisel) and how he used children stories to highlight some of the issues facing the United States.

*The Fighting First: The Untold Story Of The Big Red One on D-Day* by Flint Whitlock

This book focuses on the forgotten 1st Infantry Division and the 29th Division invasion of Omaha beach during the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Whitlock uses personal letters, unpublished manuscripts and interviews to reconstruct the events of D-Day.

*Franklin and Winston* by Jon Meacham 🗣️

This nonfiction piece explores the relationship between the two men who led the US and Britain to victory over Nazi Germany.

*Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by John J. Ellis 🗣️

Six men help create the United States.

*The Greatest Generation* by Tom Brokaw 🗣️

This book chronicles the men and women who won World War II.

*Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression* by Studs Terkel

Studs Terkel interviewed dozens of people to construct a fascinating oral history of the Great Depression. Terkel's interviews range from gangsters, immigrants, Oakies and Arkies, young, old, rich and poor. Each interview pieces together a dynamic picture of the Great Depression.

*Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA* by Tim Weiner 🗣️

Tim Weiner chronicles the story of the CIA and American intelligence since World War II. This fascinating book also deals with some of the early faults of the CIA in dealing with Soviet Russia, Korea and Communist China.

*Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX: The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America* by Karen Blumenthal

This book examines the birth, growth, stagnation, and final emergence of Title IX legislation that gave girls and women equal access to physical-education classes, gymnasiums, universities, and graduate schools.

*Scorpion Tongues: Gossip, Celebrity and American Politics* by Gail Collins

This timely history of political gossip begins with George Washington's administration and traces the relationship between gossip and government to the blurring of lines between politicians and celebrities.

*Warrior Politics* by Robert D. Kaplan

Designed to provoke thought on the issue of contemporary global politics, this book argues in favor of a foreign policy based on morality of results rather than good intentions.

*The World is Flat 3.0: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century* by Thomas L. Friedman 🗣️

Friedman's work discusses global events and globalization and hypothesizes that the world's playing field has been leveled by technology.

*The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan 🗣️

This book details the struggles of families who stayed behind and survived the biggest dust storm on record in the United States during the 1930s.

**SOPHOMORE ENGLISH STUDENTS**  
**READ ONE TITLE FROM THIS SECTION**

**SOPHOMORES TAKING HONORS BIOLOGY, SEE APPENDIX FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

*American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

This graphic novel skillfully weaves together three separate stories to create a work that is funny, compelling, and smart.

*Autobiography of my Dead Brother* by Walter Dean Myers

A sobering story of modern day teen lives in Harlem, including gangs and redemption. Includes black and white sketches and cartoons.

*Bead on an Anthill* by Delphine Red Shirt

A personal narrative of Red Shirt's childhood as a Lakota Indian. Part memoir and part anthropology.

*Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes

Teens in the Bronx tell their stories which include overcoming disabilities, teen pregnancy, image problems, and physical abuse in poetry and music lyrics during Open Mike day in their high school English class.

*Eagle Blue* by Mike D'Orso

Eight miles above the Arctic Circle a high school basketball tradition lights up winter's darkness with a team of native Alaskan boys who won't quit.

*Eldest* by Christopher Paolini

The sequel to *Eragon*, in this novel he is sent off to the elven forest city of Ellesmera, where he and Saphira are tutored in magic, battle skills, and the ancient language.

*Freaky Green Eyes* by Joyce Carol Oates

Oates' latest novel is a gripping story of a fourteen-year-old girl whose mother suddenly disappears.

*The Hidden Children* by Howard Greenfeld

This poignant story describes the experiences of those Jewish children who were forced to go into hiding during the Holocaust and survived to tell about it.

*Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment* by James Patterson

In this adventurous novel, Wood is a 14-year-old leader of a band of talented kids who have escaped the lab where they were bred as 98% human and 2% bird.

*My Heartbeat* by Garret Freymann-Weyr

This mature romance focuses on a girl's infatuation with her brother's best friend whom she thinks may be gay.

*The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano* by Margarita Engle

Engle uses verse to recount the sufferings and trials of Manzano, who was born into slavery in Cuba in 1797. Includes drawings that are stark and compelling.

*Punkzilla* by Adam Rapp

Fourteen-year-old Jamie is AWOL from military school. He's already lived hand to mouth in a west coast city. Now he is headed to Memphis where his oldest brother Peter is dying from cancer.

*She's Got Next: A Story of Getting In, Staying Open, and Taking a Shot* by Melissa King

King grew up in Arkansas shooting baskets. At 27, she moved to Chicago and found herself playing pickup basketball, meandering from playground to gym to YMCA.

*Snowflower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See

In 19th century China, Lily and Snow Flower, a girl from a larger town and supposedly from a well-connected, wealthy family, become bound together for life.

*Someday this Pain will be Useful to You* by Peter Cameron

Though he's been accepted by Brown University, James sees himself with a different life. To find his way, James makes meaning out of some very eclectic relationships.

*Wintergirls* by Laurie Halse Anderson 🗨

A story of best friends and the complexity of teenage life: eating disorders, difficult family lives, and trying relationships.

## **BIOLOGY STUDENTS READ ONE TITLE FROM THIS SECTION**

**SEE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT AT END OF GENERAL SCIENCE SECTION**

**(HONORS BIOLOGY STUDENTS SEE APPENDIX)**

*Another Day in the Frontal Lobe: A Brain Surgeon Exposes Life on the Inside* by Katrina Firlik

A sometimes grisly, sometimes amusing, always informative, personal, and professional story of becoming a neurosurgeon.

*At the Water's Edge: Fish with Fingers, Whales with Legs, and How Life Came Ashore but Then Went Back to Sea* by Carl Zimmer

Zimmer examines the story of life's transformation from the first microbes 4 billion years ago to *Homo sapiens* today. This is the story of how we got here, what we left behind, and what we brought with us. The author discusses research in paleontology, ecology, genetics, and embryology to show how scientists today are unveiling the secrets of life that biologists struggled with two centuries ago.

*The Beak of the Finch* by Jonathan Weiner

Weiner relates the speed of evolution to the growing resistance of insects and bacteria to penicillin and related anti-bacterial drugs.

*Deadly Invaders: Virus Outbreaks Around the World, from Marburg Fever to Avian Flu* by Denise Grady

Grady discusses the Marburg virus, the incurable disease it causes, and its effects on individuals and communities, and she offers a short, informative chapter on each of six other deadly diseases: avian flu, HIV/AIDS, Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, West Nile disease, SARS, and monkey pox.

*The Family That Couldn't Sleep: A Medical Mystery* by D.T. Max 🗨

A two-century old story of a family that suffers from a genetic disease that is related to prion disease includes a theory suggesting that early humans were nearly wiped out by a plague spread by cannibalism.

*Galapagos* by Kurt Vonnegut

This is the story of a small band of mismatched humans who are shipwrecked on a fictional island after a global financial crisis.

*The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat: And Other Clinical Tales* by Oliver Sacks 🗨

The neurologist-author introduces the reader to real people who suffer from a variety of neurological syndromes, including amnesia, uncontrolled movements, and musical hallucinations.

*Microbe Hunters* by Paul de Kruif and F. Gonzalez-Crussi 🗨

In this classic bestseller, the authors dramatize the pioneering bacteriological work of such scientists as Leeuwenhoek, Spallanzani, Koch, Pasteur, Reed, and Ehrlich.

*Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder 🗨

Medical doctor Paul Farmer shows how one person can make a difference by understanding the interaction between politics, social systems and disease. the interaction between politics, social systems and disease.

*Parasite Rex: Inside the Bizarre World of Nature's Most Dangerous Creatures* by Carl Zimmer

Zimmer focuses his story on the enormous variety of one- and many-celled organisms that live on and inside other animals and plants. He discusses how the study of parasites began, with 19th-century discoveries about their odd life cycles, and he looks at how parasites pass from host to host, and how they defeat immune systems and vice versa.

*The Seven Daughters of Eve* by Bryan Sykes

This work discusses the history of genetics and descriptions of early work that culminates with the finding that 90 percent of modern Europeans are descendants of just seven women who lived 45,000 to 10,000 years ago.

*Virus Hunter: Thirty Years of Battling Hot Viruses Around the World* by CJ Peters

The book provides an interesting overview of its author's career and education in the workings of a biological warfare center, and his role in 1989 Ebola outbreak among monkeys in Reston, Virginia.

*Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5 Billion Year History of the Human Body* by Neil Shubin

Shubin traces the organs of the body back millions of years. By examining fossils and DNA, the author shows how human hands resemble fish fins and the human head, a jawless fish.

## **FRESHMAN ENGLISH STUDENTS READ ONE TITLE FROM THIS SECTION**

**FRESHMEN TAKING HONORS ENGLISH, SEE APPENDIX FOR ALTERNATE REQUIREMENT.**

*The Alchemist* by Paul Coelho 🗣️

A charming tale of Santiago who dreams of seeing the world. A fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him spiritual enlightenment.

*America* by E.R. Frank

The tale of America, a foster child who disappears until a doctor helps him revisit all the darkness in his past to move with a new vision into his *future*.

*Annie John* by Jamaica Kincaid 🗣️\*

Annie John narrates a fictional story of growing up on the island of Antigua.

*The Attack* by Yasmina Khadra 🗣️

An Arab-Israeli citizen working as a respected surgeon finds his life torn apart as he deals with the discovery that his wife was a suicide bomber.

*Before We Were Free* by Julia Alvarez 🗣️

The story of a young girl's experience living under a Dominican dictatorship and an Anne Frank-style underground survival.

*The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad 🗣️\*

A journalist tells the story of her experiences while living with an Afghani family.

*Colors of the Mountain* by Da Chen

This compelling memoir describes the life of a boy living in China prior to the Cultural Revolution.

*Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah 🗣️

This unforgettable autobiography describes the author's struggle to survive in a family that doesn't want her.

*Fat Kid Rules the World* by K.L. Going 🗣️

Troy Billings, a 296-pound 17-year-old contemplates ending his life when he is interrupted by a legendary punk-rock guitarist and sometime-student.

*First they Killed my Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Loung Ung

A Chinese-Cambodian family was in great danger when the Khmer Rouge took over the country and throughout Pol Pot's barbaric regime.

*Forbidden City* by William Bell

An American journalist and his adolescent son tell of their experiences in China and the brutality of the Tiananmen Square incident.

*A Girl Named Disaster* by Nancy Farmer 🗣️

Nhamo, a young girl, is forced out of her Zimbabwe village after refusing an arranged marriage at 12 and fights for survival over the next year in the wilds of Africa.

*Krik? Krak!* by Edwidge Danticat 🗣️

Danticat, born under Haitian dictatorship and moved to the U.S. 12 years ago, stories that reflect the misery she has observed from afar as well the trials as an immigrant.

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah 🗣️

Beah recounts his experiences as a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s, during one of the most brutal and violent civil wars in recent history.

*A Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida* by Victor Martinez 🗣️

In this coming of age story, Manny Hernandez and his family struggle with problems of discrimination in his attempt to acclimate to the American culture.

*Parvana's Journey* by Deborah Ellis

While fleeing war-torn Afghanistan disguised as a boy, Parvana must overcome a series of horrifying and unforgettable obstacles.

*The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay 🗣️

A young British boy experiences apartheid in South Africa prior to World War II and discovers that he has the ability to make a difference.

*Pride of Baghdad* by Brian K. Vaughan

This graphic novel tells the story of a pride of lions on their journey to freedom after they escape from the Baghdad Zoo during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

*Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* by Ji-li Jiang 🗣️

This true narrative is the story of a young girl during the Chinese Cultural Revolution and the struggles her family and others face because of their beliefs about Chinese Communism.

*Slam* by Walter Dean Myers 🗣️

Realistic story in which 17-year-old Greg Harris tells of his transfer to a magnet school for the arts, a more academically challenging, mostly white school. After being the hot shot star of his Harlem high school team, he has to learn to fit in and be a team player at his new school.

*The Surrender Tree* by Margarita Engle 🗣️

Spanning the years 1850–1899 in Cuba, the poems are told in alternating voices, though predominantly by Rosa, a "freed" slave and natural healer destined to a life on the lam in the island's wild interior.

*We Beat the Streets: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success* by Sampson Davis

The true story of three boys who made a teenage pact to leave their impoverished New Jersey neighborhood, attend medical school, and become doctors.

## **GENERAL SCIENCE STUDENTS READ ONE TITLE FROM THIS SECTION**

### **SEE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT AT END OF GENERAL SCIENCE SECTION**

*Anthropologist: Scientist of the People* by Mary Batten

The story follows anthropologist A. Magdalena Hurtado as she lives with and studies the Ache Indians of Paraguay for 15 years. The text intertwines information about these hunter-gatherers and the changes in their society with insight into the anthropologist's methods of observation, data collection and analysis.

*Astro Turf – The Private Life of Rocket Science* by M.G. Lord

Lord describes the 1997 Mars Pathfinder mission directed by a woman in a male dominated culture in the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

*A Briefer History of Time* by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow 🗣️

Dr. Hawking relates new data from particle physics and observational astronomy to enhance and update answers to basic questions about the universe: where it's going and how it began, and topics such as the mysterious dark matter, dark energy and string theory.

*Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness* by Edward Abbey

This book describes the strangeness and wonder of existence in the desert's sparseness and simplicity.

*Einstein's Dreams* by Alan Lightman 🗣️

The author focuses on three months of Einstein's life during the year in which he published three important papers in the field of physics and re-creates the dreams that allegedly culminated in the famous essay on the relativity of time.

*The Genie in the Bottle: 67 All New Commentaries on the Fascinating Chemistry of Everyday Life* by Dr. Joe Schwarcz

Giving the low down on chemical phenomena, this book reveals the fun and fascinating secrets collected by Dr. Schwarcz blending quirky chemistry and engaging tales from the history of science. Wondering how that ice cream got its color? Find out here!

*Going Back to Bisbee* by Richard Shelton

Shelton gives readers a glimpse into the life and landscape in a mountainous mining region in the extreme southeastern Arizona.

*Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia* by Eric Reece

A recounting of how a stretch of Appalachian wilderness has gone from being a verdant North American rain forest to a bleak and dismal lunar landscape due to destructive strip-mining processes.

*Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History* by Penny Le Conteur and Jay Burreson

A fascinating account of seventeen groups of molecules that have greatly influenced the course of history. These molecules provided the impetus for early exploration, and make possible the voyages of discovery that ensued.

*The Planets* by Dava Scobel

The author's lifelong fascination with our solar system is evident in these essays that blend the latest scientific knowledge with popular culture, mythology, astrology, literature, music, and more.

*The Riddle of the Compass: The Invention that Changed the World* by Amir D. Aczel

The compass led to the Age of Exploration and the expansion of the European kingdoms into economic empires. As important as the compass is, its origins are shrouded in mystery. The author recounts many who claim its discovery and gives an overview of the development of navigation.

*The Secret Life of Dust* by Hannah Holmes

And you thought that dust was something you just swept away! Examine this unusual topic and its importance from the most outer limits of space to the deserts of Africa to the kitchen counter and under the microscope as the author traverses biology, astronomy, climatology, pathology, and host of other fields to dig up some serious dirt.

## **GENERAL SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT: FOCUS POINTS**

### **(HONORS BIOLOGY STUDENTS SEE APPENDIX)**

Reading during the summer has the benefit of providing you with entertainment, helping you relax, keeping your mental skills sharp, and preparing you for the year ahead.

To help meet the summer reading requirement for freshmen and sophomores, the Science department has prepared this "advance notice" as a guide so that the assignment can be completed before you return to school in the fall. Enjoy the stories!

A. Compose the answers to the following questions after you complete the reading from the list of science books on the Summer Reading List (and on the RHAM homepage).

B. Type your answers to the following questions using one-inch margins, double spaced lines, 11-12 point Times New Roman or Ariel font. Use complete sentences in all your answers. (Remember: do not start a sentence with "it" or "they" because these words do not convey specific information.)

C. Put your name, your science teacher's name and the date of the first day of school on **the top left margin of the first page** of your answer sheet.

Answer these questions about the book you choose to read:

1. Give the name of the book you read, the author and the date of publication of the book.
2. Describe the main theme of the book that you read from the science list.
3. (a) Discuss the main science concept that was presented in this book by describing the concept and how it was important to the story.  
(b) What is the significance of this concept to:  
(1) you?  
(2) society as a whole?
4. How does/could the main topic of this book influence the way society thinks about this subject?
5. What message about science and the scientific process was the author conveying to the reader in this book?
6. Would you recommend this book to someone else to read? Explain your answer in at least 3 sentences.

## APPENDIX

Students enrolled in the following classes have either additional **or** more specific requirements for their reading.

### **AP Language and Composition – Read this work and one from the Jr. Classic List**

*Go Down Moses* by William Faulkner 🗣️\*

Keep a writing journal that includes ideas for class discussion.

### **AP Literature and Composition - Read All Three**

*The Odyssey* by Homer 🗣️\*

*Tom Jones* by Henry Fielding 🗣️\*

*Grendel* by John Gardner 🗣️\*

### **UCONN English - Read this work and one from the Senior List**

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison 🗣️\*

### **Spanish V**

*Adventuras del ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote* by Cervantes \*

### **Sophomore Honors Biology (No other selection is required)**

*Genome* by Matt Ridley

There are 23 chapters involving what each gene is important for, including memory. Write a paragraph for each chapter discussing what was interesting and why.

### **Freshman Honors English (No other English selection is required)**

*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens 🗣️\*

Complete 5 dialectical journal entries. Handouts describing the expectations of the entries will be handed out by 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teachers or you can e-mail Mrs. Erami at [eramijen@reg8.k12.ct.us](mailto:eramijen@reg8.k12.ct.us) for a copy of the assignment.