

## **Boyertown Area School District Summer Reading List**

### Prospective Grade 7 Students

#### **Choose one of the following:**

##### Whirligig – Paul Fleischman

Self-absorbed, status-conscious Brent attends a party at which he suffers a very public rejection by a girl. He tries to kill himself on the trip home, but his reckless driving kills a stranger instead: a lovely, talented, motivated, high school senior. Brent is tormented and longs to make restitution. The court arranges a meeting with his victim's mother who asks Brent to make four whirligigs of a girl that looks like Lea.

##### Hope Was Here – Joan Bauer

Hope has a thick skin--you have to in order to be such a great waitress. But at 16, when she and her aunt move to a Midwestern small town to run the diner there, her carefully-constructed detachment is challenged when she meets the owner. For Hope, this is a first: a friend who cares more about other people than he does his own health.

##### Rules – Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him (It's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store). Then Catherine meets and befriends Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic who uses a book of pictures to communicate. She begins to understand that normal is difficult and perhaps unnecessary, to define.

##### Heart of a Champion – Carl Deuker

On the day Seth Barham met Jimmy Winter, his life changed. Seth had been an unfocused, confused pre-teen who had never come to terms with his father's death when he was seven. He meets Jimmy in a park as Jimmy's overbearing father is putting his son through intense baseball drills. As their friendship develops, Jimmy's intensity and self-assurance on the playing field spills over into Seth's life, helping him to blossom as a student and a baseball player.

##### The Uglies – Scott Westerfeld

Tally has grown up in a post-apocalyptic world where, at the age of 16, everyone is given an operation that makes their faces and bodies perfect. Before the operation they are known as "uglies," and after as "pretties." After the operation they live in New Pretty Town. Tally can't wait. Shortly before her 16th birthday she befriends Shay, who tells her about the Smoke, a secret community of those who refuse the operation. When Shay runs away to join the Smoke, Tally is given a choice by the Specials, the secret police: help them find the Smoke and betray her friend, or remain an ugly forever.

##### Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his guardian uncle has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment: to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country.

##### Holes – Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is sentenced to 18 months at "Camp Green Lake" for a crime he didn't commit. The boys of "Camp Green Lake" spend all day, every day digging holes to help them build character. Stanley realizes something else is going on and tries to dig up the truth.

**Boyertown Area School District  
Summer Reading List**

Prospective Grade 8 Students

**Choose one of the following:**

That Was Then This is Now – S.E. Hinton

Set in the same working-class landscape as The Outsiders, That Was Then, This Is Now paints a deeply felt portrait of best friends Byron and Mark, as they grow up and grow apart.

Catherine Called Birdy – Karen Cushman

Set against a backdrop of life in a medieval manor, a 14-year-old girl feels trapped because her father is determined to marry her off to a rich man. She manages to send several would-be husbands packing, but then comes a man from the north--the oldest, the ugliest, and the richest.

The Crystal Cave – Mary Stewart

The Crystal Cave tells the story of Myriddon Emrys, a young man who is on a quest to find his true purpose in life. His magical adventures lead him to become one of the best known wizards in the world, Merlin.

Black Duck – Janet Taylor Lisle

When Ruben and Jed find a dead body on the Rhode Island shore, they are certain it has something to do with smuggling liquor. Suddenly, the boys find themselves caught in a war between two Prohibition gangs.

Out of the Dust – Karen Hesse

A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. And the one thing that might make her feel better – playing the piano – is impossible with her wounded hands. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm and many are fleeing Oklahoma.

Flight #116 is Down – Caroline B. Cooney

Set in Connecticut, Heidi Landseth and Patrick Farquhar help hundreds of victims of a 747 jetliner crash which occurs behind Heidi's family estate. Both Heidi and Patrick learn how one night can change their lives forever.

## **Boyertown Area School District Summer Reading List**

### Prospective Grade 9 Students

#### **Choose one of the following:**

##### Travel Team - Mike Lupica

Danny is a basketball fanatic. He is smart, talented, fast, and dedicated, but short. When he fails to make the seventh-grade travel team, he also fails to follow in the footsteps of his legendary father, Richie Walker, who led his own 12-year-old team to win the nationals and whose career was tragically ended by a car accident.

##### The Lightning Thief - Rick Riordan

At first glance, Perseus Jackson seems like a loser, but he's really the son of Poseidon and a mortal woman. As he discovers his heritage, he also loses his mother and falls into mortal danger. The gods (still very active in the 21st-century world) are about to go to war over a lost thunderbolt, so Percy and sidekicks Grover (a young satyr) and Annabeth (daughter of Athena) set out to retrieve it.

##### The Killing Sea - Richard Lewis

Ruslan falls for Sarah when her family's sailboat docks in his Indonesian town for mechanical assistance, but Sarah, a self-absorbed American, fails to notice him. Both teens are then caught in the disastrous 2004 tsunami. Sarah makes it to safety, but her mother is killed and her father is missing, leaving her to care for her younger brother. Ruslan also survives and immediately begins to search for his father, who had left their coastal home before the storm. The two meet again, this time forging a relationship.

##### Sleeping Freshman Never Lie - David Lubar

Scott Hudson begins his freshman year of high school as a source of income to Wesley, the school shakedown artist. The girl he's known since kindergarten has blossomed into a goddess, but doesn't seem to know he's alive. He gets roped into writing the sports column for the school newspaper, even though he's not an athlete. On top of everything else, his mom is pregnant. As Scott maneuvers through a number of serious situations, he still manages to be upbeat and true to himself.

##### Warriors Don't Cry - Melba Pattillo Beals

Beals, one of the nine black students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, AR, in 1957, tells an incredible story of faith, family love, friendships, and strong personal commitment. Drawing from the diaries she kept, the author easily puts readers in her saddle oxfords as she struggles against those people in both the white and black communities who would have segregation continue.

##### The Book Thief – Markus Zusak

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist--books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

## **Boyertown Area School District Summer Reading List**

### Prospective Grade 10 Students

#### **Choose one of the following:**

##### Utopia — Thomas More

The narrator, Thomas More, arrives in Bruges, in present-day Belgium, and meets his friend Peter Giles. Giles introduces More to Raphael Hythloday, an explorer who has seen much of the world. More, Giles, and Hythloday go to More's house, and Hythloday describes his travels. Giles asks him why he hasn't offered his services to rulers, who could use his knowledge of diverse customs and practices to improve society. More and Giles explain that a person of learning and experience has an obligation to use his talents to better humanity. Hythloday, unconvinced, attempts to demonstrate why offering one's wisdom to government is not desirable.

##### Les Miserables — Victor Hugo

Hugo addresses the social issues of his day by portraying children who need to be fed, men who need jobs and women who need protection. He explores the possibility of equal education, equal opportunity and genuine brotherhood among men. His goal is to convince others that the poor, the outcast — the misérables — are worth saving.

##### The Count of Monte Cristo — Alexander Dumas

A handsome Edmond Dantès escapes from Chateau d'If after being imprisoned for 14 years. With knowledge he gained in prison, he locates an immense treasure, recreates himself as a count, and vows to reward those who were kind to him and to punish the enemies who conspired to imprison him.

##### Hard Times — Charles Dickens

Thomas Gradgrind runs a school of hard fact in the industrial city of Coketown. He happens to see his children peering into a circus in direct opposition to his views on things of fancy. The cause for the offense is that Sissy Jupe, the daughter of one of the circus folk from Sleary's traveling circus, has been enrolled in Gradgrind's school and is a bad influence. Gradgrind proceeds to visit the girl's father in order to have her removed from school. They find that he has abandoned the girl and Gradgrind agrees to take her in the hope of reforming her on the condition that she never mention her former life.

##### Burmese Days — George Orwell

A presumably semi-autobiographical story of John Flory, a British expatriate with a disfiguring facial birthmark who oversees timber camps in remote Kyauktada, Burma. Flory is a weak and lonely man who retreats to the European Club for the questionable companionship of the other expatriates who share his outpost. Flory befriends a native doctor, Veriswami, who is vying with the novel's villain, U Po Kyin, for admission to the Club. When British debutante Elizabeth Lackersteen arrives in Kyauktada, Flory falls instantly in love with her, creating a weakness for U Po Kyin to exploit.