

Freshman Summer Reading List

The purpose of summer reading is to enrich your literary experience using time not available during the school year. Summer reading will prepare you for thoughtful discussion as you begin your freshman year. You are required to read one of the following books before the start of the school year.

Travel Team by Mike Lupica (*some mature language*)

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar (*some mature language*)

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals (*nonfiction*)

All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy (*challenging read, mature content and language, occasional Spanish dialogue*)

You must purchase the book or pick up the book at the library. The book you read does count for the ninth grade reading requirement. All of the books are fiction except for Warriors Don't Cry. Some of the books have mature content. Refer to the description and consider this when making your selection.

Come prepared when school starts to have a Book Chat; this is a conversation with your teacher about the book you have read. Bring your book to our chat. You will also be required to demonstrate your knowledge of the book through an assessment that may be an oral report, a written book review, a theme-related project, or a teacher-created assessment. You may want to take notes as you read to be prepared for classroom discussion or related projects. Attached is a suggested format for your notes.



Descriptions of Summer Reading Books

Travel Team by Mike Lupica

After he is cut from his travel basketball team, the very same team that his father once led to national prominence, twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory. *(some language)*

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is launched on the most dangerous quest of his life. With the help of a satyr and a daughter of Athena, Percy must journey across the United States to catch a thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction – Zeus' master bolt. Along the way, he must face a host of mythological enemies determined to stop him.

The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis

This is a thrilling book that talks about a tsunami hitting the coast of Indonesia. There are three main characters involved in this fictionalized account: Ruslan, who is an Indonesian, and Sarah and Steve, who are Americans visiting the country.

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar

Sleeping Freshmen is an entertaining and sometimes laugh-out-loud funny guide of sorts for those, like the main character Scott Hudson, who are making their way through the crucial formative first year of high school. It is light, witty and a pleasure to read. If you are about to embark on the freshman adventure, or if you've "been there, done that," this book has something for you. *(some language)*

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals *(nonfiction)*

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals gives a first-hand account of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957--a situation that brought out the best, and the worst, in her neighbors and fellow students. The book explores not only racism but also such ideas as justice, identity, loyalty, and choice.

All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy *(challenging read)*

John Grady Cole, a 16-year-old Texan, crosses the Rio Grande into Mexico in 1949, accompanied by his pal Lacey Rawlins. The two horsemen pick up a sidekick, a laughable but deadly marksman named Jimmy Blevins. They encounter various adventures on their way south and finally arrive at a *hacienda* where Cole falls into an ill-fated romance. *(mature content and language, occasional Spanish dialogue)*