

**SOUTH PLANTATION HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST
2009**

“Summer is the perfect time for students to do a lot of reading. Summer reading ensures reading skills are fresh when students start a new school year, and we know from the Nation’s Report Card that the more time students spend reading, the better they perform,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

Because of their dedication to promoting reading, the English teachers of South Plantation High School encourage you to immerse yourself in great summer reading. One key to your reading success is the discovery of entertaining, relaxing, and enjoyable literature.

Below is a list to help you find books that we hope will engage and delight. Some are annotated. Amazon.com provides excellent annotations of the books that we have not annotated here.. ENJOY!

FICTION

Black and White by Paul Volpon What happens when otherwise good kids and best friends choose an illegal path to easy cash? In alternating voices, two talented high school basketball stars, one white and one black, tell the story of their decision to commit a crime and the consequences that follow. Each shares the struggle with his conscience, the challenge to their friendship, and the effect on their once promising futures.

The Body of Christopher Creed by Carol Plum-ucci Torey Adams thinks he has a great life...until he becomes obsessed with the disappearance of Christopher Creed. The star football player and good student is dating the most beautiful cheerleader, writing songs for his band, and hanging with his very good friends. Once he is named in Creed's farewell note, the mystery surrounding his disappearance haunts Torey, causing him to relive the way he and his friends treated Chris and to re-examine his values. Torey's search for Christopher Creed is also a search for meaning and purpose in his own life.

The Bonesetter’s Daughter by Amy Tan Set in San Francisco and in a Chinese village, this novel is about a San Francisco career woman, Ruth Young, who makes her living by ghostwriting self-help books. Ruth’s mother, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, had given Ruth documents about a cave where dragon bones are mined, some of which may prove to be the teeth of Peking Man.

Boy’s Life by Robert McCammon This novel takes you to Zephyr, Alabama, the small-town home of eleven- year-old Cory Mackenson. You will ride with Cory on his enchanted bicycle as he whirls through an intricate maze of magic, adventure, and mystery, growing older and wiser with every twist and turn. Hang on for the suspense.

Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn This realistic adolescent novel is about sixteen year-old Nick who is sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal. He examines his controlling behavior and his turbulent home life with an abusive father.

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin When 15 year-old Lizzie Hall wakes up on a ship cruising to Elsewhere, she does not know she is already dead. Anger, resentment, and longing for her life temporarily block her progress toward - hard as it is to believe - reincarnation. Joy, sadness, and ultimately acceptance fill Lizzie's journey "back" to her new and future roles.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card Imagine a brilliant young child, ripped from his family at a young age and forced to train for battle against an alien monster. Filled with surprises, this novel charts the growth of a deeply complicated young man as he prepares for inter-galactic battle. The ending will surprise you.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathon Saffron Foer Because his father died in the World Trade Center bombings, Oskar (who seems much older than nine) sets out to find the lock that fits a key that belonged to his father. His search leads him to a wide variety of fascinating people and a man with his father's name. The story is told from multiple viewpoints and includes photographs, art and variations in typography; it is a unique work.

Flight to Freedom by Ana Veciana-Suarez This adolescent novel, part of the First Person Fiction series and written by Herald columnist Ana Suarez, is about the experience of coming to America. Yara Garcia and her family live a middle-class life in Havana but are forced to flee to Miami. This book poignantly documents Yara's story of exile and adjustment.

The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian Josh Swensen wants to save the world, but is too shy to speak out – so he creates a web site under the pen name Larry, where he posts his sermons about the flaws in our society – everything from consumerism to celebrity worship. His Web site quickly becomes a national phenomenon and "Larry" becomes a celebrity. Even his best friend Beth, with whom he is secretly in love, has become a fan. Josh is torn about whether to admit being Larry or keep his identity secret – until an obsessed fan makes the decision for him.

The Grass Dancer by Susan Power This book tells the story of Harley Wind Soldier, a young Sioux, and several generations of his ancestors. The Sioux of North Dakota are explored through short stories, written from the tradition of oral histories, which tie the Sioux lives together.

A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libba Bray Sixteen-year-old Gemma moves from India to a London boarding school after her mother's surprising murder. While trying to find ways to fit in with her peers and deal with her loss, Gemma discovers her supernatural powers and uses them to explore the mystery of her mother's death. A page-turner set in Victorian England, this gothic mystery deals with issues still relevant today: female roles, parenting styles and family expectations.

It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini "The Tootsie Roll question" is: Why is Craig Gilner so depressed? After dedicating all his free time, a lot of his sleep time, and basically his whole life to passing the entrance exam for Manhattan's most prestigious high school, Craig finds himself in the adult ward of a mental hospital. Here, in addition

to meeting and surviving the other patients on the ward, Craig begins to sort through his priorities and tackle big decisions

Krik? Krak! by Edwidge Danticat This challenging collection of intimate stories by Haitian-American author Danticat is about life under Haiti's dictatorships and about those who fled to America to give their children a better life.

The Last Days of Summer by Steve Kluger Joey Margolis has a dilemma. He has bragged so much about his best friend, New York Giants' baseball player Charlie Banks, that his school mates want proof. But Joey doesn't really know Charlie - and so he has to find a way to make him his friend. Thus begins the story of a very unlikely relationship between a national sports hero and a 12 year old boy. A series of letters, notes, report cards, telegrams, baseball scorecards and newspaper clippings tell this funny and touching story as it spans the years before and during World War II.

Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands by Susan Carol McCarthy Based on actual crimes committed by the KKK in central Florida during the 50s, this novel of historical fiction is told through the eyes of twelve-year-old Reesa, in reality the author.

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer When the news starts reporting that a meteor is on a collision course with the moon, Miranda barely takes notice. She is wrapped up in the typical concerns of a sophomore: friends, romance, family, and getting her driver's license. But after the meteor hits, her old life is a thing of the past. The collision pushes the moon off its axis and causes worldwide disasters that forever alter life as we know it. As her family tries to survive in their post-apocalyptic small town, Miranda chronicles their hardships in her journal. Her family-as well as humanity-is faced with not only survival, but also with the challenge of carrying hope into a new kind of future.

Local Girls by Alice Hoffman Alice Hoffman has written a very compelling collection of short stories centering around the two "local girls," Gretel Samuelson and her best friend Jill, during the turbulent years of their adolescence. The stories chronicle, in particular, Gretel's family falling apart due to the unhappy marriage of her parents; her brilliant brother's descent into drug addiction; her mother's serious illness and Gretel's own poor romantic relationship. What saves these stories from being quite depressing is Gretel's wry and humorous way of viewing these events, keeping the reader very intrigued. Gretel and Jill's adventures in their neighborhood when they seek revenge on nasty neighbors will especially keep you laughing and rooting for them to succeed. Hoffman creates a very real world with people you will care for.

Marley and Me by John Grogan When John Grogan and his new wife pick Marley out of a litter of pups, they do not realize how their lives will change forever. An energetic, mischievous puppy, Marley is more than the couple can handle at first. He has a love of life and a fear of thunder, which causes chaos in the Grogans' lives. Over time, however, Marley becomes one of the family. He grows into a calmer dog that is loving, loyal, and the best friend the Grogans could ever have. This book helps readers remember why dogs truly are "man's best friends."

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult Anna leads a life like no other teenager her age; at thirteen, she has undergone numerous surgeries, shots, and transfusions so that Kate, her sister, can fight the leukemia she has had since she was young. Finally fed up with the countless medical procedures, Anna seeks a lawyer and fights for the right to make decisions about her own body. This controversial novel raises questions about being a good sister, good parent, as well as a moral person.

Shadow Divers by Robert Kurson In deep water, the world is hidden in shadows. John Chatterton and Richie Kohler discover a World War II German U-boat in an impossible location off the coast of New Jersey and spend six years trying to solve its mystery. In their efforts to fill the missing pages of history, they sacrifice the lives of close friends as well as their marriages. They are enemies when they begin their quest, but their shared discoveries create a strong bond of friendship, forged in the sense of wonder and the risk of danger.

Star Girl by Jerry Spinelli Set in Mica, Arizona, this adolescent novel about the conforming and intolerant culture of the American public high school has won many awards. Stargirl is the new student who attracts much attention because she is very different.

The Usual Rules by Joyce Maynard On a Tuesday morning in Brooklyn, Wendy heads to school with typical teenage worries on her mind: her looks, a fight with her mother, and plans with her best friend. She does not anticipate that her life will change forever that morning when a plane crashes into the World Trade Center, the place where her mother works. Wendy is forced to deal with difficult questions and overwhelming emotions as she watches the rest of her family fall apart after her mother's death. Wendy moves to California with her father and discovers important lessons about family, loss, and forgiveness.

Witness by Karen Hesse This adolescent novel, written entirely in free verse, depicts the viewpoints of eleven characters who chronicle the events occurring in a 1924 Vermont town after the arrival of the Ku Klux Klan.

NONFICTION

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal by Eric Schlosser This nonfiction work traces the growth of fast food chains and blames the fast food industry for obesity, widening the gap between the rich and poor, for ruining the environment and for global imperialism.

It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life by Lance Armstrong This account of Armstrong's journey from diagnosis of advanced cancer through treatment and back to competition is filled with nutritional, physical, emotional and spiritual details.

The Physics of Star Trek by Lawrence Krauss This nonfiction work by a renowned physicist discusses the current reality of transport beams, warp drives, dilithium crystals, holodecks, tractor beams, wormholes and other concepts frequently incorporated into the various Star Trek television series.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand This nonfiction work is about the world of thoroughbred horse racing and focuses on one of the sport's legends during the 1930s and 1940s. This is the universal underdog story.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach "This is a book about notable achievements made while dead," says author Mary Roach. Mary looks at how scientists have used cadavers throughout history, and through her research, she demonstrates the many advances of forensic science that have helped the living. A thoughtful, respectful and funny look at what happens to our bodies after we die.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Sand Chronicles, v. 1-3 by Hinako Ashihara.

Atomic Robo: Atomic Robo and the Fightin' Scientists of Tesladyne by Brian Clevinger and Steve Wegener.

Real, v. 1-2 by Takehiko Inoue

Uzumaki, v.1. by Junki Ito

Pitch Black by Youme Landowne and Anthony Horton

Japan Ai: A Tall Girl's Adventures in Japan by Aimee Major Steinberger

Skim by Mariko Tamaki and Jilliam Tamaki

Umbrella Academy: Apocalypse Suite by Gerard Way and Gabriel Ba

Cairo by G. Willow Wilson and M. K. Perker

For more graphic novel selections visit:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/greatgraphicnovelsforteens/09gnt.cfm>

Additional Suggestions

FICTION

All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren

Benito Cereno by Herman Melville

Bless the Beasts & Children by Glenson Swarthout

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh

A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M. Miller Jr.
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut
Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko
Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier
Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
Dancing on the Edge by Han Nolan
The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown
Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley
The Diagnosis by Alan Lightman
Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells
Dubliners by James Joyce
El Bronx Remembered by Nicholasa Mohr
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
The Farming of Bones by Edwidge Danticat
Five Quarters of the Orange by Joanne Harris
A Girl Named Disaster by Nancy Farmer
Home of the Braves by David Klass
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri
In This Sign by Joanne Greenberg
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
Jubilee by Margaret Walker
The Kitchen God's Wife by Amy Tan
Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel García Márquez
Lucy by Jamaica Kincaid
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards
Native Son by Richard Wright
On the Beach by Nevil Shute
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn
A Passage to India by E. M. Forster
Portrait in Sepia by Isabel Allende
A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving
Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow

Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy
Rule of the Bone by Russell Banks
Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer
Running Loose by Chris Crutcher
The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama
Shane by Jack Schaefer
Shogun by James Clavell
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: A Novel by Lisa See
A Spot of Bother by Mark Haddon
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
The Stranger by Albert Camus
Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert A. Heinlein
Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman
The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
The Time Machine by H.G. Wells
True Grit by Charles Portis
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks
A Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris

NONFICTION

Among Schoolchildren by Tracy Kidder
Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt
Blink by Malcolm Gladwell
Fathering Words: The Making of an African American Writer by E. Ethelbert Miller
Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
Growing Up in the Other America by Alex Kotlowitz
Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years by Sarah and Elizabeth Delaney
If I Die in a Combat Zone by Tim O'Brien
Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America by Nathan McCall
My Bridges of Hope: Searching for Life and Love After Auschwitz by Livia Bitton-Jackson
Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by T.S. Eliot

Profiles in Courage by John F. Kennedy

There are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys by Alex Kotlowitz

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time by
Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington

The Water Is Wide by Pat Conroy