

## RHS SUMMER READING 2010

*“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can’t read them.”*  
*--Mark Twain*

This summer all students will be required to read a short packet of folktales and myths. The packet can be accessed on the Rockland Public School’s website. The web address is <http://www.rocklandschools.org>. Once on the site, simply click on the tab marked “Community” and scroll down to find “Summer Reading.” On that screen, you will find a file marked “Folktales and Myths.” If you are unable to access the reading online, a small number of these packets will be housed at the guidance office in the high school.

In addition students will select one book to read from the attached lists. The English Department selected these titles based on students’ suggestions and by researching what other schools assign for their summer reading programs. Not all books will appeal to all students. Thus, each list contains selections from various genres and reading levels. Please research the choices to select the best option. To make summer reading an enjoyable and rewarding experience, students should discuss book choices with parents.

**In September, all students will take a short test on the folktales and myths and write an in class essay on the book they selected.**

**NOTE:** Parents should review their children’s selections carefully. They should then sign the Parental Consent Form. **This form must be passed in on the first day of school.**

Books will be available at local libraries and at the following bookstores: Borders Express in Hanover, Borders in Braintree and Barnes and Noble in Hingham. In addition, used copies of many of the books can be purchased on amazon.com.

Parents should call the English Office at 871-8422 with any questions.

REVISED June 2, 2010

# ENTERING 9th GRADE

Pick *one* book from this list:

## Fiction

Beauty: a Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast by Robin McKinley—a more complex and mature retelling of this timeless fairy tale

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier—Jerry Renault dares to disturb the universe. To some, Jerry is a hero, but to others, he becomes a scapegoat. And Jerry? He's just trying to stand up for what he believes.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon—late one night, Christopher comes across his neighbor's poodle, Wellington, impaled on a garden fork. Christopher resolves to discover just who has murdered Wellington.

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers—sent to the front lines, Perry and his platoon come face-to-face with the real horror of warfare. Perry struggles to find virtue in himself and his comrades and questions why the U.S. is there at all.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer— the highly acclaimed futuristic story about clones

Stardust by Neil Gaiman—one fateful night, Tristran promises his beloved that he will retrieve a fallen star for her in the dangerous land of Faerie. He bravely sets out to win the hand of his love.

Tex by S.E. Hinton—by the author of The Outsiders, this novel is about fifteen year old Tex. His life would be just about perfect if only his older brother Mason would stop complaining about Pop, who hasn't been home in five months.

The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen—after losing her father, Macy Queen tries to hide her grief by controlling every aspect of her life only to learn life she needs to be more honest

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech—Salamanca's grandparents have agreed to take her on a trip to see her mother, who left their farm a year ago. Along the way, Salamanca entertains them with a mysterious story about her friend Phoebe.

## Non-Fiction

Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer by Lynne Cox—an autobiography in which the author shares her passion for swimming

Into Thin Air by Robert Krakauer—the author's account of his tragic climb of Mt. Everest

In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle by Madeleine Blair—the true story of an Amherst's girl's basketball team and their amazing season

# ENTERING 10th GRADE

Pick *one* book from this list:

## Fiction

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie—deciding he wants more for himself, Arnold transfers to a better high school. Feeling betrayed, his best friend turns on him but Arnold relies on drawing and basketball to help him through the transition.

Athletic Shorts by Chris Crutcher—a collection of short stories about sports

Bloodline by Kate Cary—fans of the Twilight series should give this vampire tale a try

A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libba Bray—16-year old Gemma arrives at her new school only to learn of a mystical order. Her discovery takes her on a fantastical adventure through time.

The Hunger Games (series) by Suzanne Collins— a gripping story set in a post-apocalyptic world where the government demands a tribute from each of its territories: two children to be used as gladiators in a televised fight to the death.

The Inheritance Cycle (series) by Christopher Paolini—a great fantasy series for those who aren't afraid of long books

Nation by Terry Pratchett—worlds are destroyed and cultures collide when a tsunami hits islands in a vast ocean much like the Pacific. The survivors struggle with nature and each other.

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher— When Clay Jenson receives a mysterious package of cassette tapes, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. As he listens he learns the consequences of even small actions.

Top 8 by Katie Finn—upon returning from vacation, Madison checks her online profile, only to discover that someone has hacked into her page and ruined her reputation. She sets out to seek revenge and get her life back.

## Non-fiction

In Harm's Way by Douglas Stanton—the story of the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors

The Teammates: A Portrait of Friendship by David Halberstam—as baseball legend Ted Williams is dying in Florida, his old Boston Red Sox teammates Johnny Pesky and Dom DiMaggio drive 1,300 miles to see their friend and share memories

The Tiger's Child by Torey Hayden—if you were enthralled by Sheila in One Child, read this sequel to learn what happened next

# ENTERING 11th GRADE

Pick *one* book from the list:

## Fiction

A is for Alibi (series) by Sue Grafton—meet Kinsey Millhone, a private investigator who sets up a detective agency in California. She’s got a soft spot for underdogs and lost causes.

Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver—an oftentimes-funny story about a woman traveling across the country who finds herself unexpectedly thrown into motherhood

Daddy’s Little Girl by Mary Higgins Clark— Ellie Cavanaugh, who was seven when her sister, Andrea, 15, was beaten to death by 20-year-old Rob Westerfield, returns home to speak out against him after learning he is up for parole.

Killer Angels by Michael Shaara—an engaging narrative about the Battle of Gettysburg, also on the AP US History list

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini—follows the story of Amir and Hassan in the relatively stable Afghanistan of the early 1970s. The boys are inseparable until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever

Lottery by Patricia Wood—after winning the \$12-million lottery jackpot, Perry L. Crandall’s life is greatly complicated. Despite having an IQ of 76, however, Perry proves he understands how to sustain a truly rewarding life.

St. Lucy’s Home for Girls Raised by Wolves by Karen Russell—a series of upbeat, sentimental fables set in an enchanted version of North America and narrated by articulate, emotionally precocious children from dysfunctional households

True Confessions of a Heartless Girl by Martha Brooks—at 17, Noreen has led an unhappy life, overloaded with conflict. After running off to a small Canadian town, she encounters others struggling with life’s tragedies.

## Non-Fiction

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All American Meal by Eric Schlosser—on any given day, one out of four Americans opts for a quick and cheap meal at a fast-food restaurant. Schlosser explores the darker side of the fast food industry in this devastating exposé

The Freedom Writers Diary by Erin Gruwell—a story about a group of troubled kids transformed with the help of a devoted teacher

Friday Night Lights: a Town, a Team, and a Dream by H.G Bissinger—a breathtaking examination of the town of Odessa’s high school football team, its coaches, and its young players

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson—a humorous account of the author’s travels through America

# ENTERING 12th Grade

Pick *one* book from the list:

## Fiction

The Double Bind by Chris Bohjalian—a literary thriller with references to (and including characters from) The Great Gatsby, Bohjalian takes readers on a haunting journey through one woman's obsession with uncovering a dark secret

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows—set in both London and Guernsey Island, this novel follows author Juliet as she becomes friends with the inhabitants of the island shortly after the end of World War 2

In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O'Brien—John and his wife, Kathy, retreat to a small cabin on the shores of a Minnesota lake--from which Kathy mysteriously disappears. Was she murdered? Did she run away? The truth is explored through a series of memories and interviews.

Little Bee: A Novel by Chris Cleave—on a beach in Nigeria, tourists Sarah O'Rourke and her husband are confronted with a momentous choice; their decision shapes the rest of their lives

The Road by Cormac McCarthy—a man and his son journey across a post-apocalyptic America, trying to survive starvation and hordes of cannibals. Clinging to their humanity, the two fight to make it the coast where they hope to others like themselves.

Set This House in Order by Matt Ruff—two people with multiple personalities embark on a journey to understand themselves

Strawberry Fields by Marina Lewycka—a cast of itinerant characters realize that picking strawberries in Kent is more lucrative than white-collar jobs in their homelands, and narrate their journeys in the spirit of Chaucer's pilgrims.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini—by the author of The Kite Runner, this is the story of two women, Mariam and Laila. Their unlikely friendship serves as their only defense against their violent husband and the tragedy of war.

Water for Elephants: A Novel by Sara Gruen—Jacob Jankowski recounts the wild and wonderful period he spent with the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, a traveling circus he joined during the Great Depression

## Non-fiction

Freakonomics by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner: a comical and thought provoking exploration of the hidden side of everything

A Million Little Pieces by James Frey—Frey's memoir of drug addiction and recovery was a bestseller even before Oprah Winfrey picked it for her book club in 2005, but the subsequent revelations about discrepancies between the story and the author's real life touched off a national debate about the line between fact and fiction

Naked by David Sedaris—in this hysterical collection of memoirs, Sedaris examines his family's many eccentricities with a keen eye for the absurd

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**RHS SUMMER READING**

**PARENTAL CONSENT FORM**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

My son/daughter has selected the following book for Summer Reading:

- \_\_\_\_\_ by  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I approve of his/ her selections and by my signature certify that he/she has read the selections indicated above.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Form should be completed and returned to the student's English teacher in September.*