

Waltham High School: 2011 Freshman Summer Reading List

Honors – 4 books total

1 Required Classic: *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells

1 Required All Levels Read: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

2 Choice Books: Choose two from following list:

C1 and C2 – 3 books total

1 Required All Levels Read: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

2. Choice Books: Choose two from following list:

- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez
- *If I Should Die Before I Wake* by Han Nolan
- *Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam
- *Rough and Tumble* by Mark Barvaro
- *Ironman* by Chris Crutcher
- *Feed* by M. T. Anderson
- *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain
- *Slam* by Walter Dean Myers
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

Required for All Levels to Read: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

In a not-too-distant future, the United States of America has collapsed, weakened by drought, fire, famine, and war, to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. Part entertainment, part brutal intimidation of the subjugated districts, the televised games are broadcasted throughout Panem as the 24 participants are forced to eliminate their competitors, literally, with all citizens required to watch. When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as the mining district's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart, Peeta, the son of the town baker who seems to have all the fighting skills of a lump of bread dough, will be pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for this their whole lives.

Required Classic for English 9 Honors: *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells

A dinner party is set in an uproar, when the host, a brilliant inventor, unveils his latest invention, a time machine. The next week's party is even more upset when the inventor stumbles in, dirty and damaged, telling the story of a trip some 800,800 years into the future. There he met a world inhabited by the childlike Eloi and the hideous underground Morlocks

Choice Books - All levels select two:

***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez**

This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, when their lives have been shaped by U. S. mores, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island.

***If I Should Die Before I Wake* by Han Nolan**

Nolan's first novel is ambitious indeed: she frames the story of teenage Chana's survival in the Lodz ghetto and Auschwitz with a second story, about a young neo-Nazi who--after a motorcycle accident from which her vicious boyfriend escapes unscathed--is in the intensive care unit where Chana is dying half a century later.

Rocket Boys by Homer Hickam

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Rocket Boys* is a uniquely American memoir--a powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the dawn of the 1960s, of a mother's love and a father's fears, of a group of young men who dreamed of launching rockets into outer space . . . and who made those dreams come true.

Rough and Tumble by Mark Bavaro

A former New York Giants tight end and two-time Pro Bowler, Bavaro turns in a gritty, behind-the-scenes look at life in the NFL for his debut novel. Dominic Fucillo (tight end for the Giants, natch) is having a bad week. The commissioner is fining him \$50,000 for attacking a referee, his estranged girlfriend won't talk to him and the team doctor tells him that he has a hole in his knee that will need career-ending surgery after the season.

Ironman by Chris Crutcher

Bo Brewster lets his anger get the best of him. He finds himself in Mr. Nak's Anger Management class filled with people who are bullies, future American Gladiators, and people who have problems at home. Bo is training like crazy throughout the school year for Yukon Jack's triathlon. Will Bo crack under the pressure of the race or will he rise to the occasion?

Feed by M.T. Anderson

This brilliantly ironic satire is set in a future world where television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies. The result is a chillingly recognizable consumer society where empty-headed kids are driven by fashion and shopping and the avid pursuit of silly entertainment--even on trips to Mars and the moon--and by constant customized murmurs in their brains of encouragement to buy, buy, buy.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain

A practical, no-nonsense New Englander of 1889, knocked unconscious in a fight, wakes up in old England of 528, where, by dint of his industry, he becomes Sir Boss, a prominent and dissident member of the Round Table. Gradually, he introduces 19th century technology so the clever Sir Boss soon has an easy life. That does not stop him from making disparaging, tongue-in-cheek remarks about the inequalities and imperfections of life in Camelot.

Slam by Walter Dean Myers

Seventeen-year-old Greg "Slam" Harris can do it all on the basketball court. He's seen ballplayers come and go, and he knows he could be one of the lucky ones. Maybe he'll make it to the top. Or maybe he'll stumble along the way. Slam's grades aren't that hot. And when his teachers jam his troubles in his face, he blows up. Slam never doubted himself on the court until he found himself going one-on-one with his own future, and he didn't have the ball.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

In this first of five volumes of autobiography, poet Maya Angelou recounts a youth filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and finally hard-won independence. Sent at a young age to live with her grandmother in Arkansas, Angelou learned a great deal from this exceptional woman and the tightly knit black community there.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Intense is the word for *Ender's Game*. Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses -- and then training them in the arts of war... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'... Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games... He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?