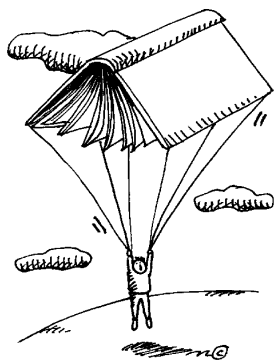


Recommended Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade VIII

Shady Hill School Library 2009



Anderson, Laurie H. **Chains** (Historical)
As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight-- freedom from slavery. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion.

Bloor, Edward **Tangerine** (Realistic)
Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eye sight.

Cole, Brock **The Goats** (Realistic)
Stripped and marooned on a small island by their fellow campers, a boy and a girl form an uneasy bond that grows into a deep friendship when they decide to run away and disappear without a trace.

Collins, Suzanne **The Hunger Games**
(Science Fiction)
In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition which pits young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. Difficult to put down.

Cormier, Robert **The Rag and Bone Shop**
(Realistic/Suspense)
Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend.

Going, K.L. **Fat Kid Rules the World**
(Realistic)
Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band.

Howe, James **Totally Joe** (Realistic)
Joe's teacher asks his seventh-grade class to write an "alphabiography" throughout the year, presenting themselves and their lives in entries from A to Z. Joe explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenge of being a gay teenager.

Key, Watt **Alabama Moon** (Realistic/
Survival)
After the death of his father, Moon leaves the only home he has ever known, a makeshift shelter hidden in the forest. He is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known, making friends, enemies and eventually finding a new life for himself. An unpredictable cross between Hatchet and Holes.

Kidd, Sue Monk **The Secret Life of Bees**
(Historical)
During the summer of 1964 in rural South Carolina, a young white girl is given a home by three black, beekeeping sisters. As she enters their mesmerizing secret world of bees and honey, she discovers a place where she can find the single thing her heart longs for most.

Kluger, Steve **The Last Days of Summer**
(Historical)
Set in 1940, Brooklyn, young baseball fanatic and smart aleck, Joey Margolis needs a hero. Told through letters between Joey and NY Giants' rookie third baseman, Charlie Banks, news clippings, box scores, report cards, matchbook covers, dispatches from FDR and even an invitation to Joey's own Bar Mitzvah. A laugh out loud tear-jerker.

Korman, Gordon **Born to Rock** (Realistic)
High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend.

Miller, Kirsten **Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City** (Mystery/Supernatural)
Remarkable, mysterious Kiki recruits a gang of renegade Girl Scouts to explore a forgotten city beneath Manhattan. Is she merely out for adventure, or does she have a bigger plan? Sequel: The Empress's Tomb

Myers, Walter Dean **Fallen Angels** (Historical)
17-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam. Strong language.

Namioka, Lensey **Ties That Bind, Ties That Break** (Historical)
Third Sister in the Tao family, Ailin has watched her two older sisters go through the painful process of having their feet bound. But Ailin loves to run. Knowing she will never run again once her feet are bound, Ailin rebels and refuses to follow this torturous tradition. Set in 1911 China. Sequel: An Ocean Apart, A World Away

Peet, Mal **Keeper** (Realistic/
Supernatural)
In an interview with a young journalist, World Cup hero, El Gato, describes his youth in the Brazilian rain forest and the events, experiences, and people that helped make him a great goalkeeper and renowned soccer star.

Pixley, Marcella **Freak** (Realistic)
Twelve-year-old Miriam, poetic, smart, and quirky, is considered a freak by the popular girls at her middle school. She eventually explodes in response to their bullying, revealing an inner strength she did not know she had. Written by a former SHS Grade VII gradehead.

Pratchett, Terry **Nation**
(Sci-Fi)
After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

Reeve, Philip **Here Lies Arthur**
(Historical)
Gwynna is forced to run when her village is attacked and burned to the ground. To her horror, she is discovered in the wood. But it is Myrddin the bard who has found her, a traveler and spinner of tales. He agrees to protect Gwynna if she will agree to be bound in service to him. In the course of their travels, Myrddin transforms Gwynna into the mysterious Lady of the Lake, a boy warrior, and a spy. It is part of a plot to transform Arthur from the leader of a ragtag war band into King Arthur, the greatest hero of all time.

Rose, Malcolm **Framed!** (Mystery)
Sixteen-year-old forensic investigator Luke Harding and his robot sidekick Malc race to discover who is behind three student murders, only to find that the evidence points to Luke himself.

Schmidt, Gary **The Wednesday Wars**
(Historical)
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Shusterman, Neal **The Schwa Was Here**
(Realistic/Supernatural)
Is it possible for a human being to be invisible? The Schwa nearly is, but Antsy notices him and the two boys devise a scheme to make big bucks. Hilarious and touching. Sequel: Antsy Does Time

Tashjian, Janet **The Gospel According to Larry**
(Realistic)
Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention. Sequel: Vote for Larry

Townley, Roderick **The Red Thread**
(Fantasy/Time Travel)
Bothered by insomnia, nightmares, and claustrophobia, sixteen-year-old Dana sees a therapist who hypnotizes her into remembering past lives, involving her in an age-old mystery and causing her to question what kind of person she is.

Vande Velde, Vivian **Heir Apparent** (Fantasy)
While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

Zusak, Marcus **The Book Thief**
(Historical)
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.