



# Summer Reading 2008



This summer, East Early College High School is participating in the HISD Millionaire Club Challenge which asks all HISD students to **read at least 5 books** over the summer. You will be required to read at least 3 books from this sheet - at least one book from each category. The remaining two (or more!) books that you read can be free choices, but may come from this list if you choose. You will be issued a reading journal in which you will need to write a short review of the books you read including your comments about the book. You must write at least two pages on each book that you read. **DO NOT LOSE YOUR READING JOURNAL.** In August you will be required to turn in your reading journal to the library to verify that you have met the minimum 5 book requirement. Have a great summer and check out these recommended titles.

## Category 1: 11th Grade Required Reading - all Juniors are required to read:

**The Great Gatsby/F. Scott Fitzgerald** Tells the tragic love story of Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan, a dashing, enigmatic millionaire obsessed with an elusive, spoiled young woman. Lexile 1070

## Category 2: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Recommendations - choose at least one from this list

**Host/ Stephenie Meyer** Earth has been overrun by an alien species called Souls, which invade human bodies and erase personalities. As the novel opens, Melanie Stryder, one of the few human holdouts, has been captured by the aliens and is implanted with a Soul named Wanderer, who is something of a legend among her own kind because of the many hosts and planets she has experienced. Lexile 810

**Thirteen Reasons Why/Jay Asher** High school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death. Lexile 550

**Jane Eyre/ Charlotte Bronte** In early nineteenth-century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her employer who has a terrible secret. Lexile 840

**What the dead know/ Laura Lippman** Baltimore detective Kevin Infante becomes caught up in investigating a long-ago crime when police arrest a woman involved in a rush-hour accident only to have her tell them she is the younger of the two Bethany sisters who went missing from a local mall thirty years earlier.

**Between a Rock and a Hard Place/ Aron Ralston** The author recounts his harrowing experiences of being trapped for six days in Blue John Canyon in Utah and having to amputate his own right arm in order to save his life. Lexile 1210

**Anatomy of a boyfriend/ Daria Snadowsky** In her last semester at a private school in Fort Myers, Florida, seventeen-year-old Dom finds her life transformed by her first boyfriend, Wes, a track star at the public school her best friend attends.

**Touching snow/Sindy Felin** After her stepfather is arrested for child abuse, thirteen-year-old Karina's home life improves but while the severity of her older sister's injuries and the urging of her younger sister, their uncle, and a friend tempt her to testify against him, her mother and other well-meaning adults persuade her to claim responsibility.

**Lord of the Flies/ William Golding** After a plane crash strands them on a tropical island while the rest of the world is ravaged by war, a group of British schoolboys attempts to form a civilized society but descends into brutal anarchy. Lexile 770

**Tantalize/ Cynthia Smith** When multiple murders in Austin, Texas, threaten the grand re-opening of her family's vampire-themed restaurant, seventeen-year-old, orphaned Quincie worries that her best friend-turned-love interest, Keiren, a werewolf-in-training, may be the prime suspect. Lexile 760

**Firestorm/ David Klass** After learning that he has been sent from the future for a special purpose, eighteen-year-old Jack receives help from an unusual dog and a shape-shifting female fighter. Lexile 510

**Keturah and Lord Death/Martine Leavitt** When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love. Lexile 810

**Bloodline/ Kate Cary** Nineteen-year-old John Shaw returns from World War One and is haunted by nightmares of not only the battles but the horrifying discovery that his regimental commander is descended from Count Dracula.

**Tortilla Flat/ John Steinbeck** Above the town of Monterey on the California coast lies the shabby district of Tortilla Flat where Danny and his colorful group of friends live and where their revels recall the exploits of King Arthur's knights.

**Unwind/ Neal Shusterman** Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen. Lexile 740

**Memoirs of a teenage amnesiac/ Gabrielle Zevin** After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life. Lexile 720

### Category 3: The American Experience - choose at least one from this list

**Alas Babylon/ Pat Frank** The story of a group of people who rely on their own courage and ingenuity to survive in a small Florida town that escaped nuclear bombing.

**Crucible/ Arthur Miller** A play in which a vengeful teenager in 1692 Salem accuses her former lover and his wife of witchcraft.

**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn/ Mark Twain** The adventures of a boy and a runaway slave as they travel down the Mississippi River on a raft.

**Slaughterhouse 5/ Kurt Vonnegut** A fourth-generation German-American is tortured by his memories of the firebombing of Dresden in 1944 which he witnessed while a prisoner of war.

**Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe/ Fannie Flagg** Middle aged Evelyn Couch, befriends eighty-year-old Ninny Threadgood, who tells her the story of the Whistle Stop Cafe and the two women who ran it in the 1930s.

**Manchurian Candidate/Richard Condon** Buried deep within the consciousness of Sergeant Raymond Shaw is the mechanism of an assassin-a time bomb ticking toward explosion, controlled by the delicate skill of its Communist masters.

**Hawaii/ James Michener** A novel that chronicles the history of the Hawaiian people, dramatizing the interactions of Hawaii's original Polynesians, the first missionaries who arrived there, and the Chinese, Japanese, and Filipinos who intermarried with the Hawaiians and helped shape their culture.

**Their Eyes Were Watching God/ Zora Neale Hurston** An African-American woman searches for a fulfilling relationship through two loveless marriages and finally finds it in the person of Tea Cake, an itinerant laborer and gambler.

**Catcher in the Rye/ J.D. Salinger** An adolescent boy, knowing he is about to be dropped by his school, spends three days and nights in New York City.

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof/ Tennessee Williams** Tells of the problems that beset a wealthy Southern family gathered together for a family celebration.

**The Pigman/ Paul Zindel** Two high school sophomores from unhappy homes form a close friendship with a lonely old man who has a terrible secret. Lexile 930

**A Lesson Before Dying/ Ernest Gaines** Tells the story of a young African-American man sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit, and a teacher who tries to impart to him his learning and pride before the execution. Lexile 750

**A Confederacy of Dunces/ John Kennedy Toole** Pulitzer Prize winning farce, set in New Orleans, telling about Ignatius J. Reilly and his various attempts at employment and one-man wars. Lexile 800

**House of Seven Gables/ Nathaniel Hawthorne** Follows the Pyncheon family who lived for generations under a dead man's curse until his death restored their house.

**Of Mice and Men/ John Steinbeck** Two drifters, George and Lennie, see their dreams of buying their own farm come to a tragic end when Lennie, a simple-minded man, accidentally commits a crime.

**To Kill a Mockingbird/ Harper Lee** Eight-year-old "Scout" Finch tells of life in a small Alabama town where her father is a lawyer.

**Old Man and the Sea/ Ernest Hemingway** An old fisherman battles the sea and sharks to bring home the giant marlin he caught.

**In Cold Blood/ Truman Capote** Examines the lives and deaths of four members of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, and the two men who murdered them on November 15, 1959.

**The House on Mango Street/ Sandra Cisneros** A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends.