



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: 10th Grade Required Reading - all Sophmore are required to read this book

Fahrenheit 451/Ray Bradbury "Fahrenheit 451--the temperature at which book paper catches fire, and burns . A book burner in a future fascist state finds out books are a vital part of a culture he never knew. He clandestinely pursues reading, until he is betrayed. Lexile 890

Category 2: 10th Grade Student Recommendations - choose at least one from this list

The Thirteenth Tale/Diane Setterfield Aging, reclusive author Vida Winter, having given out multiple versions of her life story over the years, decides to finally set the record straight and engages Margaret Lea, a London bookseller's daughter, to write her biography, drawing the young woman into a tale of a governess, a ghost, a willful woman, feral twins, and a gothic mansion. Lexile 920

19 minutes/Jodi Picoult The people of Sterling, New Hampshire, are forever changed after a shooting at the high school leaves ten people dead, and the judge presiding over the trial tries to remain unbiased, even though her daughter witnessed the events and was friends with the assailant. Lexile 890

Gingerbread/Rachel Cohn After being expelled from a fancy boarding school, Cyd Charisse's problems with her mother escalate after Cyd falls in love with a sensitive surfer and is subsequently sent from San Francisco to New York City to spend time with her biological father. Lexile 960

Go Ask Alice/Anonymous Based on the diary of a fifteen-year-old drug user chronicling her struggle to escape the pull of the drug world. Lexile 1010

Lord Loss/Darren Shan Presumably the only witness to the horrific and bloody murder of his entire family, a teenage boy must outwit not only the mental health professionals determined to cure his delusion, but also the demonic forces only he can see. Lexile 680

Jurassic Park/Michael Crichton An account of the attempt, through a hair-raising twenty-four hours on a remote jungle island, to avert a global emergency--a crisis triggered by today's rush to commercialize genetic engineering. Lexile 710

Imani All Mine/ Connie Rose Porter Tasha, a fifteen-year-old mother, is proud of her baby girl and is determined to be a good parent to her child, but she must draw upon her newfound faith to go on when tragedy strikes. Lexile 580

If I Have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's My Prince?/ Melissa Kantor High school sophomore Lucy Norton's life is turned upside down when her father remarries and moves Lucy to Long Island, where she finds herself trapped in a Cinderella story with a wicked stepmother, two evil stepsisters, and a dashing prince who could make all Lucy's dreams come true. Lexile 850

Life as We Knew It/ Susan Pfeffer Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Lexile 770

Looking for Alaska/John Green Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. Lexile 930

Demon in My View/ Amelia Atwater-Rhodes Seventeen-year-old Jessica Allodola discovers that the vampire world of her fiction is real when she develops relationships with an alluring vampire named Aubrey and the teenage witch who is trying to save Jessica from his clutches. Lexile 820

Emako Blue/Brenda Woods Monterey, Savannah, Jamal, and Eddie have never had much to do with each other until Emako Blue shows up at chorus practice, but just as the lives of the five Los Angeles high school students become intertwined, tragedy tears them apart. Lexile 600

Romiette and Julio/ Sharon Draper Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after falling in love on the Internet, but are harassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating. Lexile 610

Category 3: 10th Grade Teacher Recommendations - choose at least one from this list
These teachers are interested in hearing what you think about their recommendations - make it a point to talk to them about these books next year!

Ms.Vining (World History) recommends:

Why Nations Go to War/John Stoessinger Built around 8 case studies, the book covers the crucial events that led to the outbreak of the twentieth century's major military conflicts, with particular focus on the pivotal role leaders play in pushing a nation over the threshold into war.

Ms. Lyons (English) recommends:

Wolf Rider/ Avi After receiving an apparently crank call from a man claiming to have committed murder, fifteen-year-old Andy finds his close relationship with his father crumbling as he struggles to make everyone believe him. Lexile 530

Mr.Neidecker (Geometry) recommends:

Wednesday Wars/ Gary Schmidt During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons Holling Hoodhood reads the plays of William Shakespeare and learns much of value about the world he lives in. Lexile 990

Math Doesn't Suck/Danica McKellar Actress Danica McKellar teaches math concepts introduced in middle school, the time when many students lose interest in math, using entertaining examples. For people who like math these stories will seem funny. For people who have problems with math these stories will make them feel better about the subject. Lexile 650

Dr. Tran (Biology, Chemistry) recommends:

A Short History of Nearly Everything/Bill Bryson Nature and science writer Bill Bryson examines some of mysteries of science, and attempts to understand not only what scientists know, but how they know it. Covers the creation of the universe, the size of the Earth, the origins of life, and other topics. Lexile 500

Coach Baldwin recommends:

The Hobbit/ J.R.R.Tolkien The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish. Lexile 1000

Ms. Baldwin (Librarian) recommends:

Ender's Game/ Orson Scott Card Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race. Lexile 780

Ms. Mims (GUST) Recommends:

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.

Ms. Bolden (Assistant Principal) Recommends:

Rebecca/ Daphne DuMaurier For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca de Winter continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, one of the most famous English country houses. Lexile 880

Ms. Saenz (HCC Speech & Psychology) recommends:

Perfect Match/Jodi Piccoul Assistant district attorney Nina Frost has always prided herself on the fact that she protects the city's children from abuse and crime, but when her own son is sexually abused, she finds herself overcome with rage and sets out to find his attacker and exact justice for her son.

Mr. Castro (Principal) Recommends:

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