

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 full 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: 9th Grade Required Reading - all Freshmen are required to read this book

Tangerine/ Edward Bloor 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 eyesight. Lexile 680

Category 2: 9th Grade Student Recommendations - choose at least one from this list

Twilight/Stephanie Meyer Seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, where she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human. Lexile 720

Inkheart/Cornella Funke Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story. Lexile 780

The Golden Compass/Philip Pullman Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North. Lexile 930

Beastly/Alex Finn A modern retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" from the point of view of the Beast, a vain Manhattan private school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form. Lexile 580

Maximum Ride: the Angel Experiment/James Patterson After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. Lexile 700

Vampire Kisses/Ellen Schreiber Sixteen-year-old Raven, an outcast who always wears black and hopes to become a vampire some day, falls in love with the mysterious new boy in town, eager to find out if he can make her dreams come true. Lexile 700

The Foreshadowing/Marcus Sedgewick Having always been able to know when someone is going to die, Alexandra poses as a nurse to go to France during World War I to locate her brother and to try to save him from the fate she has foreseen for him. Lexile 690

The Absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian/ Sherman Alexie Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot. Lexile 600

La Linea/Ann Jaramillo When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both. Lexile 650

I, Robot/ Isaac Asimov Dr. Susan Calvin, the first great practitioner of the new science of robopsychology in 2008, looks back on her career with U.S. Robotics on the occasion of her retirement fifty years later, telling stories of how the mechanical race developed. Lexile 820

Elsewhere/Gabrielle Zevin After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live." Lexile 720

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie/ David Lubar While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer. Lexile 560

Category 3: 9th 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. Nitsch (World Geography) recommends:

The Kite Runner/ Kahled Hosseini Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend. He returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official. Lexile 840

The Red Tent/ Anita Diamant The story of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, is told from her point of view, beginning with the story of her mothers, Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah. These wives of Jacob give her the fits that are to sustain her through a damaged youth, a calling to midwifery, and a new home in a foreign land. Lexile 1010

Ms. Merchant (English) recommends:

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan/ Lisa See Friends Snow Flower and Lily find solace in their bond as they face isolation, arranged marriages, loss, and motherhood in nineteenth-century China. Lexile 980

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

Ms. Finch (Algebra) recommends:

Angels and Demons/ Dan Brown World-renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned to a Swiss research facility to analyze a mysterious symbol seared into the chest of a murder victim, where he discovers evidence of the resurgence of an ancient brotherhood with a vendetta against the Catholic Church. Lexile 880

Sphere/ Michael Crichton A group of American scientists descend to the ocean floor to investigate a spaceship of phenomenal dimensions, apparently undamaged by its fall, and three hundred years old. Lexile 610

Dr. Sigren (Physical Science, Biology) recommends:

The Double Helix: a personal account of the discovery ... DNA / James Watson Traces the quest to solve the mysteries of DNA and how human traits are passed down from one generation to another; and profiles the scientists involved in its discovery.

Lonesome Dove/ Larry McMurtry Two former Texas Rangers, Augustus McCrae and Woodrow Call, leave their Texas ranch to lead a cattle drive to Montana, encountering outlaws, Native Americans, and ex-loves along the way. Lexile 990

Ms. Baldwin (Librarian) recommends:

Wait For Me/ An Na As her senior year in high school approaches, Mina yearns to find her own path in life, but working at the family business, taking care of her little sister, and dealing with her mother's impossible expectations are stifling until she falls in love with a young migrant worker with dreams of becoming a musician. Lexile 670

An Abundance of Katherines/ John Green Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

Coach Baldwin (Soccer Coach) recommends:

Skeleton Key/ Anthony Horowitz Reluctant teenage-spy Alex Rider, on a routine mission at the Wimbledon tennis championships, gets caught up in Chinese gangs, illegal nuclear weapons, and the suspect plans of his Russian host, General Sarov. Lexile 630

Ms. Bolden (Assistant Principal) Recommends:

A Brief History of Time/ Stephen Hawking Provides an introduction to today's scientific ideas about the cosmos and reviews past theories. Also covers black holes, quarks, antimatter, and other mysteries of physics.