

“GLADIATORS IN THE GARDEN”

Summer Reading Book List (A minimum of two books from this list is required)

Thirteen Reasons Why

by Jay Asher

What would you do if you came home from school to find a box of cassettes with your name on it waiting on your front porch? What do you do when the box turns out to be from a classmate who committed suicide two weeks before? What is Clay Jensen going to do when he finds out he and 12 others are the 13 reasons why?

Avalon High

by Meg Cabot

Elaine's new school is Avalon High (Go Excaliburs!) Since her parents are medieval professors you would think she would notice something odd when new friends are named Arthur, Lance, and Jennifer. Elaine's junior year looks like it's going to include a great-looking boyfriend, a place on the track team, and maybe, just maybe, the possibility that what some people are calling déjà vu, may be reincarnation instead.

The Nature of Jade

by Deb Caletti

Jade DeLuna suffers from panic attacks and watching the elephants at the local zoo with her webcam calms her down. Before she knows it Jade has fallen for one of the elephants' frequent visitors – the boy in the red cap. Jade meets and falls in love with the boy, his son, and his grandmother, but before she gets too comfortable the love of her life reveals a terrible secret, which may force Jade to make some very hard choices.

City of Bones

by Cassandra Clare

Clary Fray witnesses a murder at a New York nightclub. When the body disappears into thin air, Clary's chance to call the police vanishes, too. Clary embarks on adventures with an obscure group of teens known as the Shadowhunters. They say they hunt demons, so why are the demons after Clary and her family? Now Clary's mother has vanished.

Deadline

by Chris Crutcher

Ben Wolf lives in tiny Trout, Idaho, but he has a big secret. In fact, his secret is so big it changes his life. Ben is determined to make his senior year one in which he accomplishes everything he always dreamed. Why shouldn't he be a 127 pound football player, why shouldn't he go for the hottest girl in school, and who says he can't make his civics teacher wish he could retire early? What Ben doesn't know, though, is that he's not the only one in Trout with a secret.

The Christopher Killer

by Alane Ferguson

Fans of CSI will love this first installment of a series starring forensic investigator Cameryn Mahoney. Her backwater Colorado town has not had a murder to investigate for years and, since Cameryn's dad is the county coroner, she has a front row seat for the action to follow. Cameryn investigates everyone for the murder. Can she stop the killer before he kills again?

What Happened to Cass McBride?

By Gail Giles

If you made a list of the scariest things you could think of, surely being buried alive would be on it. Nonetheless, this is what happens to Cass McBride. Can she keep her captor talking and save her own life? She's got 48 hours to find out.

Incantation

by Alice Hoffman

Estrella and Catalina are best friends. In sixteenth century Spain, however, being Jewish can result in death, and Estrella's family is only pretending to be Christians. When Catalina discovers that her betrothed has fallen in love with Estrella instead, she betrays Estrella's religious secret with tragic consequences.

Firestorm

by David Klass

Jack has always been told to blend in, but when he sets his high school's rushing record suddenly he starts to stand out. Jack has put into motion a course of events and now he can't escape. His parents aren't really his parents, he has to run for his life from a shape-shifting wolf-girl, he's able to communicate telepathically with a dog, and (best of all!) he meets a beautiful ninja named Eko. Finally, Jack realizes he is the only one who can save the world from ecological disaster, but only if he can find Firestorm before the Turning Point. The problem is that Jack doesn't know what, or who, Firestorm is.

Wicked Lovely

by Melissa Marr

Aislinn sees fairies, but not nice fairies. Aislinn's fairies are dangerous. If they find out she can see them, there's no telling what they will do. All her life she has followed a set of rules governing fairies: ignore them, don't speak to them, and never, never stare. But suddenly these rules are no longer working and Aislinn's life, and that of her friends, may be on the line.

Street Love

by Walter Dean Myers

Damian Battle has been accepted to an Ivy League college, while Junice Ambers' mother is in prison for dealing drugs. These two Harlem natives would seem to have nothing in common. But *Street Love* finds more connections between Damian and Junice than you'd ever expect in their rapid-fire and rap-inspired "conversation."

Life As We Knew It

by Susan Beth Pfeffer

The journal kept by a 16-year-old Pennsylvania teenager named Miranda is full of friends, fights, and her hope for a driver's license. But when a meteor collides with the moon, life on Earth changes dramatically with tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanoes. Everything she once knew, like food and warmth, can never be taken for granted again.

Boot Camp

by Todd Strasser

Harmony Lake is a New York boot camp for troubled teens, but Garrett Durrell is convinced he doesn't belong there. What's so wrong with dating your ex-math teacher? Garrett's parents want him to stay until he's become the perfect son. But after enduring days of psychological abuse and physical torture, Garrett discovers that some campers are hatching an escape plan. Now Garrett has to decide if the risk is worth the price.

A Long Way Gone

by Ishmael Beah (*mature themes*)

Rebels force Ishmael Beah from his village in Sierra Leone when he is only 12. By the time he's 13, he is a soldier in the army and has left behind the boy who loved hip-hop and replaced him with a boy whose life is filled with the almost constant presence of drugs and massacre. The journey Beah takes back to a home with his uncle and then on to the United States where he earns a college degree is both devastating and inspirational. With over 300,000 boy soldiers in the world today, you owe it to yourself to read Ishmael Beah's memoir.

A Thousand Splendid Suns

by Khaled Hossani (*mature themes*)

This novel, set in Afghanistan during three decades of Soviet occupation, civil war and Taliban rule, follows Mariam and Laila, two women 19 years apart in age, whose lives are dramatically intertwined by dire circumstances including marriage, childbirth, abuse and murder.