

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Reading and writing in the 21st century classroom is an interdisciplinary effort. Students read and write in all disciplines, but they have particularly extended and frequent opportunities to do so in English, the sciences, and social studies.

Summer reading at the high school level encompasses these three disciplines. Over the course of each student's high school experience, he or she will select from summer reading lists that encourage reading for enjoyment and education, while addressing some of the "big questions" that surface in these three subjects areas and in adult life.

The books selected for each grade represent a variety of interests and reading levels. Print copies are readily available locally or via online booksellers. In addition to local bookstores, the Thayer Public Library is a valuable (and free!) resource. If you need help in selecting books, do not hesitate to ask the librarian!

For those of you planning travel this summer, consider going beyond the bookshelves and print pages to include audio books in your student's experience. While audio books are not a replacement for reading, they are a wonderful supplement, especially when experienced with a copy of the actual book. Audio books are available at the library on CD or on iTunes.

As you explore these opportunities and the "big question" for the summer, remember that summer reading is for pleasure! We hope you and your son or daughter find many enjoyable books and stories to be part of your summer. We look forward to working with you throughout your student's high school career.

Sincerely,
Rock Roberts, Director of English & Reading, rock.roberts@braintreeschools.org
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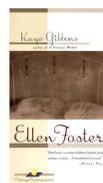


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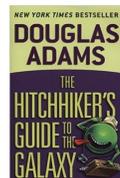
The Big Question:
To what degree can one person make a difference?



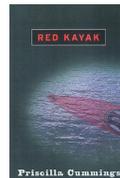
Inkheart
by Cornelia Funke



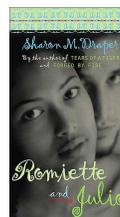
Ellen Foster §
by Kay Gibbons



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
by Douglas Adams



Red Kayak
by Priscilla Cummings



Romiette and Julio
by Sharon Draper

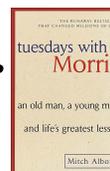
Between Shades of Gray §
by Ruta Sepetys



My Name is Asher Lev
by Chaim Potok



Tuesdays with Morrie
by Mitch Albom



Shatter Me
by Tahereh Mafi



Profiles in Courage
by John F. Kennedy



Looking for great books? Interested in logging your reading hours for a prize? Visit thayerpubliclibraryteens.blogspot.com and www.thayerpubliclibrary.org.
§ This book was written for adults or young adults and contains some mature language and/or content.

Steps to a complete summer reading assignment for students entering grade 9:

- Select one book from the ten choices on the flyer (more details, including printable versions of the charts and questions, available at www.braintreeschools.org/summer).
- Read it and complete the Note-Taking Chart for the Grade 9 Big Question (below) .

Can one person change his community?
The world? Another person?

Copy (or print) the chart below and complete it using the book you selected from the list for 9th graders.

Evidence that one person CAN make a big difference	Evidence that one person CANNOT always make a big difference
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
Weigh your evidence and answer the question: To what degree can one person make a difference?	

- Select any other book (with parent approval).
- Read it and complete the Note-Taking Questions (below or printable at www.braintreeschools.org/summer).

1. Select, from your book, five words that are new to you. Copy the words and the sentences or phrases in which they appear. Define each word (using a dictionary, online resource, or your own knowledge of context and roots).

2. List at least five important points, events, or facts from the book, and give a one- or two-sentence explanation of why each is important to the book.

3. Copy (or print) this chart and complete it to demonstrate connections you've made using your choice reading book.

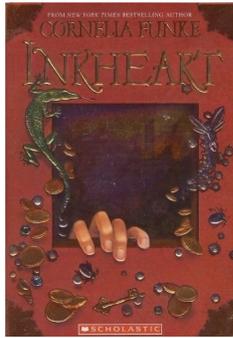
Text-to-Self Connections: How does a moment, character, or part of this book relate to your own life?	Text-to-Text Connections: How can you connect this book to another book or article you've read?	Text-to-World Connections: How does this book connect to something that happened or is happening in the real world?
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.

- Turn in your written work to your English teacher in the fall.
 - Participate in the summer reading class activity in your English class.
- Your passing or failing mark for summer reading will show via the Aspen X2 Student/Parent Portal.

Inkheart

by Cornelia Funke

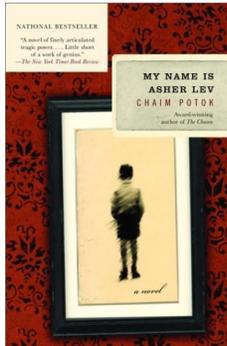
Characters from books literally leap off the page in this engrossing fantasy. Meggie, 12, has had her father to herself since her mother went away when she was young. Mo taught her to read when she was five, and the two share a mutual love of books. Things change after a visit from a scarred man who calls himself Dustfinger and who refers to Mo as Silvertongue. Meggie learns that her father has been keeping secrets. He can "read" characters out of books. When she was three, he read aloud from a book called *Inkheart* and released Dustfinger and other characters into the real world. At the same time, Meggie's mother disappeared into the story. This "story within a story" will delight not just fantasy fans, but all readers who like an exciting plot with larger-than-life characters.



My Name is Asher Lev

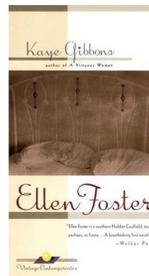
by Chaim Potok

In this stirring and often visionary novel, Chaim Potok traces Asher's passage between two identities, the one consecrated to God, the other subject only to the imagination. Asher Lev grows up in a cloistered Hasidic community in postwar Brooklyn, a world suffused by ritual and revolving around a charismatic Rebbe. But in time his gift [artistic talent] threatens to estrange him from that world and the parents he adores. As it follows his struggle, *My Name Is Asher Lev* becomes a luminous portrait of the artist, by turns heartbreaking and exultant, a modern classic.



Braitree High School Summer Reading
for students entering grade 9

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Ellen Foster §

by Kay Gibbons

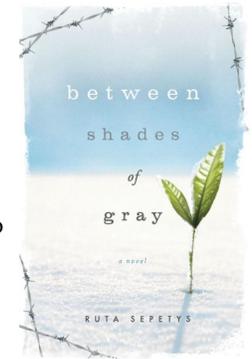
Ellen Foster is an 11-year-old who has been dealt a rotten hand in life. Her early childhood is spent with a sickly mother and an alcoholic and abusive father.

After her mother commits suicide (or is it murder?), Ellen goes to live alone with her father, doing the best she can to avoid being abused. When the courts finally take action, she is sent to live with her grandmother, a bitter and spiteful woman. Yet when her grandmother dies, Ellen manages to take charge of her own life. This beautifully written story, compelling in its innocence, is sweet, funny, and sad.

Between Shades of Gray §

by Ruta Sepetys

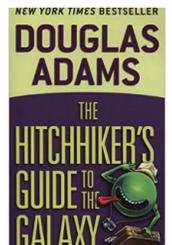
Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941. She paints, she draws, she gets crushes on boys. Until one night when Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Separated from her father, forced onto a crowded and dirty train car, Lina, her mother, and her young brother slowly make their way north, crossing the Arctic Circle, to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia. Here they are forced, under Stalin's orders, to dig for beets and fight for their lives under the cruelest of conditions. Lina finds solace in her art, meticulously-and at great risk-documenting events by drawing, hoping these messages will make their way to her father's prison camp to let him know they are still alive.... *Between Shades of Gray* is a novel that will steal your breath and capture your heart.



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

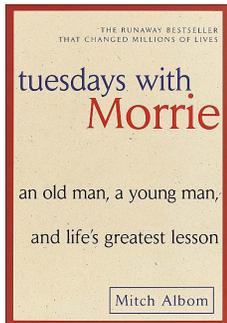
by Douglas Adams

Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue. *The Hitchhiker's Guide* is rich in comedic detail and thought-provoking situations and stands up to multiple reads. Required reading for science fiction fans, this book (and its follow-ups) is also sure to please fans of Monty Python, Terry Pratchett's Discworld series, and British sitcoms.



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Tuesdays with Morrie

by Mitch Albom

This true story about the love between a spiritual mentor and his pupil has soared to the bestseller list for many reasons. For starters: it reminds us of the affection and gratitude that many of us still feel for the significant mentors of our

past. It also plays out a fantasy many of us have entertained: what would it be like to look those people up again, tell them how much they meant to us, maybe even resume the mentorship?

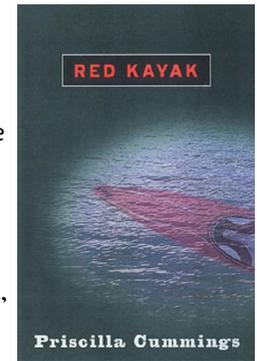
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Red Kayak

by Priscilla Cummings

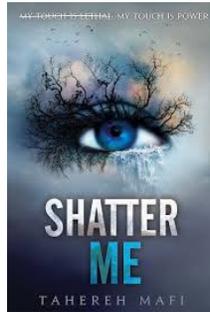
In this satisfying crime and coming-of-age drama, Brady's friends commit a mean-spirited prank -- but no one was supposed to die. What happens now? Revealing the terrible secret would implicate Brady's friends in the drowning, and it clouds his whole world with guilt and fear. Cummings's works plot and characterizations skillfully, building suspense as the evidence unfolds and as Brady wrestles with his decision and tries to come to terms with his own responsibility.



Shatter Me

by Tahereh Mafi

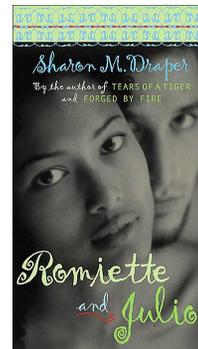
No one knows why Juliette's touch is fatal, but The Reestablishment has plans for her. Plans to use her as a weapon. But Juliette has plans of her own. After a lifetime without freedom, she's finally discovering a strength to fight back for the very first time—and to find a future with the one boy she thought she'd lost forever. In this electrifying debut, Tahereh Mafi presents a riveting dystopian world, a thrilling superhero story, and an unforgettable heroine.



Romiette and Julio

by Sharon Draper

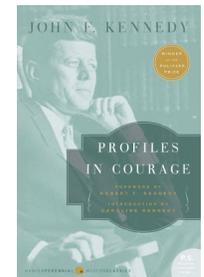
A contemporary retelling of the Romeo and Juliet story. Sixteen-year-old Julio Montague's parents have moved their family to Cincinnati, OH, in order to get their son out of his gang-ridden high school in Corpus Christi, TX. Romiette Cappelle, also 16, is the daughter of successful African-American parents and the granddaughter of college professors. When these two young people, both from proud heritages, begin a romance, they must deal not only with their parents' prejudices but also with the threats of a local gang called The Family.



Profiles in Courage

by John F. Kennedy

In 1954-55 a freshman U.S. Senator from Massachusetts wrote a book profiling eight of his historical Senatorial colleagues, such men as John Quincy Adams, Sam Houston, and Robert A. Taft. Instead of focusing on their storied careers, John F. Kennedy chose to illustrate their acts of integrity, when they stood alone against tremendous political and social pressure for what they felt was right.



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