

**Braintree High School
Required Summer Reading
June 2009**

While at Braintree High School, each student is expected to continue reading during the summer.

All students are required to read two books during the summer:

1. one from the attached list
2. one approved by the student's parents

An objective (multiple choice) test will be given on the first book when the students return to school in September. Students must complete a written assignment on this book and will be allowed to use their handwritten assignment during the test. A written assignment must also be completed for the second book. Teachers will collect both assignments for review. The grade for summer reading will be part of the first term grade (5%).

Parents are encouraged to assist their son/daughter in making appropriate selections.

Entering Grade 9

All But My Life*--Klein A courageous teenager recalls her experience as a Holocaust survivor during the Nazi regime in an account that is both uplifting and horrific.

The Hobbit--Tolkien Lovers of fantasy will be captivated by the adventures of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who finds himself caught up in an unexpected journey with dwarves to reclaim their treasure from a dragon.

Tuesdays with Morrie* - Albus A dying and courageous Brandeis professor meets weekly with a former student and shares his ideas about life, mortality and courage.

A Walk To Remember - Sparks In 1958 Landon Carter is a shallow but well-meaning teenager who spends most of his time hanging out with his friends and trying hard to ignore the impending responsibilities of adulthood. Then Landon gets roped into acting the lead in the Christmas play opposite the most renowned goody two-shoes in town: Jamie Sullivan. Against his best intentions and the taunts of his buddies, Landon finds himself falling for Jamie and learning some central lessons in life. *(Description from Amazon.com)*

Enders Game - Card Enders Wiggins becomes a pawn in this futuristic thriller about an anticipated alien attack for which Earth's government is preparing by using combat games to train military geniuses.

Entering Grade 10

1984 --Orwell Published in 1949 as a warning about the menaces of totalitarianism, the novel is set in an imaginary future world that is dominated by three perpetually warring totalitarian police states. The book's hero, Winston Smith possesses a longing for truth and decency that leads him to rebel secretly against the government. The book's title and many of its coinages, such as NEWSPEAK, became bywords for modern political abuses. (The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature)

Romiette and Julio - Draper Sixteen-year-old Julio Montague's parents have moved 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. *(Description from Amazon.com)*

Not Without Laughter - Hughes A classic of African-American literature presents a coming-of-age novel filled with lyricism and humor and set in a small Kansas town during the early twentieth century. *(Description from Amazon.com)*

Ellen Foster - Gibbons In Ellen Foster, the title character is an 11-year-old orphan who refers to herself as "old Ellen," an appellation that is disturbingly apt. There is something almost

Dickensian about Ellen's tribulations; like *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield* or a host of other literary child heroes, Ellen is at the mercy of predator adults, with only her own wit and courage--and the occasional kindness of others--to help her through. That she does, in fact, survive her childhood and even rise above it is the book's bittersweet victory. (*Description from Amazon.com*)

Peace Like a River Enger A coming of age story that focuses on the adventurous journey of the Land family; asthmatic Rube, his sister and father who search for Rube's outlaw brother Dave, a teenager who stands up to bullies and who has been charged with murder. Despite the charge and his flight, Dave never loses the loyalty and love of his family.

Entering Grade 11

Maus Spiegelman In comic book form, the author tells the harrowing story of his father, a Holocaust survivor. From a unique artistic viewpoint, this graphic novel communicates the horrors of the concentration camps and its after effects.

The Secret Life of Bees—Monk Kidd Lily Owen, neglected child, flees home with her surrogate mother, Rosaleen, who has reasons of her own to skip town, and finds shelter with a memorable trio of beekeeping sisters. Set in a time of racial unrest, the novel depicts the cruelty of the time but also the enduring power of friendship, fidelity and family.

Summer of 49 *The year was 1949, and a war-wearied nation turned from the battlefields to the ball fields in search of new heroes. It was a summer that marked the beginning of a sports rivalry unequalled in the annals of athletic competition: the awesome New York Yankees and the indomitable Boston Red Sox. (*Description from Amazon.com*)

Into Thin Air*--Krakauer The author, a survivor of the expedition to scale Mt. Everest, vividly recounts the thrills and terror of this deadly attempt.

Catch Me If You Can: The Story of a True Fake * Abagnale & Redding In the space of five years, Frank Abagnale passed \$2.5 million in fraudulent checks in every state and 26 foreign countries. ... impersonating a Pan Am pilot , playing the role of a pediatrician and faking his way into the position of temporary resident supervisor at a hospital in Georgia. Posing as a lawyer, he conned his way into a position in a state attorney general's office, and he taught a semester of college-level sociology with a purloined degree from Columbia University. The kicker is, he was actually a teenage high school dropout. Now an authority on counterfeiting and secure documents, Abagnale tells of his years of impersonations, swindles, and felonies with humor and the kind of confidence that enabled him to pull off his poseur performances. (*Description from Amazon.com*)

Entering Grade 12

Dreams from My Father*--Obama In this poignant memoir, the president of the United States, the son of a white woman and absent Kenyan father, recalls his unusual upbringing, citing personal obstacles and his struggle with racial identity.

The Catcher in the Rye--Salinger A coming of age novel about a cynical adolescent, Holden Caulfield who travels through New York City after his expulsion from prep school. In his journey, he struggles to find meaning in the world.

The Joy Luck Club--Tan Mother daughter relationships within the Chinese culture

Let Me Go*— Schneider When Schneider was four, her mother abandoned her children for a career in the SS. In the ensuing 57 years, Schneider saw her only once. Readers will be fascinated as well as horrified by this woman's unrepentance and the impenetrable shield she has built around her emotions. (*Description from Amazon.com*)

The Greatest Generation*--Brokaw An inspiring account of the generation who lived through the Depression and World War II. Find out why Tom Brokaw believes the forces that shaped this generation of Americans inspired him to dub them greatest.

* = Non-fiction