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, Dr. Gorman Lee & Dr. Betsey Clifford
Directors of English & Reading, Social Studies, & Science, K-12
rroberts@braintreema.gov
glee@braintreema.gov
bclifford@braintreema.gov


§ 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence that one person CAN make a big difference</th>
<th>Evidence that one person CANNOT always make a big difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text-to-Self Connections: How does a moment, character, or part of this book relate to your own life?</th>
<th>Text-to-Text Connections: How can you connect this book to another book or article you’ve read?</th>
<th>Text-to-World Connections: How does this book connect to something that happened or is happening in the real world?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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.

**Sky in the Deep**
by Adrienne Young
Raised to be a warrior, seventeen-year-old Eelyn fights alongside her Aska clansmen in an ancient, rivalry against the Riki clan. Her life is brutal but simple: fight and survive. Until the day she sees the impossible on the battlefield—her brother, fighting with the enemy—the brother she watched die five years ago.

**Haroun and the Sea of Stories**
by Salman Rushdie
When Haroun Khalifa's father, the renowned storyteller Rashid Khalifa, loses his gift of gab, Haroun knows he has to help. Soon, he's tumbled headfirst into an adventure story of his own, journeying toward the legendary Sea of Stories on the back of a flying Hoopoe bird. There, he finds a host of comical, unforgettable new friends, from Iff the Water Genie to Blabbermouth the page, and at the end of his quest, a formidable enemy—the Prince of Silence, Khattam-Shud himself. At once vastly humorous and deeply tender, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* is a fantastical, witty contemporary fable and a powerful statement about the importance of storytelling. Salman Rushdie has created an instant classic - a dazzling read for children and adults alike that both celebrates and embodies the magic of fiction.

**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.

**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.

Images and editorial reviews were copied, edited, or adapted from www.amazon.com.

$ This book was written for adults or young adults and contains some mature language and/or content.
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?

Craig & Fred
by Craig Grossi
In 2010, Sergeant Craig Grossi was doing intelligence work for Marine RECON—the most elite fighters in the Corps—in a remote part of Afghanistan. While on patrol, he spotted a young dog "with a big goofy head and little legs" who didn’t seem vicious or run in a pack like most strays they’d encountered. After eating a piece of beef jerky Craig offered—against military regulations—the dog began to follow him. "Looks like you made a friend," another Marine yelled. Grossi heard, "Looks like a 'Fred.'" The name stuck, and a beautiful, life-changing friendship was forged.

Lessons: My Path to a Meaningful Life
by Gisele Bundchen
Gisele Bündchen’s journey began in southern Brazil, growing up with five sisters, playing volleyball, and rescuing the dogs and cats around her hometown. In fact, she wanted to become either a professional volleyball player or a veterinarian. But at the age of 14, fate suddenly intervened in the form of a modeling scout, who spotted her in São Paulo. Four years later, Gisele’s appearance in Alexander McQueen’s memorably rain-soaked London runway show in the spring 1998 launched her spectacular career as a fashion model, and put an end to the "heroin chic" era of fashion.

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.

If You Come Softly
by Jacqueline Woodson
Jeremiah feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he's in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But now he's going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and black teenage boys don't exactly fit in there. So it's a surprise when he meets Ellie the first week of school. In one frozen moment their eyes lock, and after that they know they fit together — even though she's Jewish and he's black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that's not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way.

Images and editorial reviews were copied, edited, or adapted from www.amazon.com.
§ This book was written for adults or young adults and contains some mature language and/or content.