

# DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Reading 2009

# *HOT*



# *Summer Reading*

# DHS Summer Reading Program 2009

## Introduction

The summer vacation is the perfect time for students to read some great books. We understand that during the school year students are often too busy with homework, assignments, and activities to read for pleasure. During the long, *hot*, lazy days of summer we want ***all students to select and read as many books as possible.*** It has been proven that reading improves student achievement across the curriculum. Students have the entire summer to find and read books that are of interest to them and, while they are enjoying their books, they will also be improving their academic performance in the future.

In order to assist students with book selection, the DHS librarians have prepared a list of ***suggested book titles.*** The list contains books that cover a variety of interests, styles, genres, and reading levels, and is as diverse as our student body. It is impossible to provide a blanket guarantee that all the books are suitable for all students. Students and parents are encouraged to apply their own values, views, and sensibilities in order to determine the appropriateness of the reading material. The DHS Library will have copies of many of the titles available for check out for the summer. Additional assistance with selecting and obtaining reading materials can be obtained from the Darien Library and your favorite bookstore.

**Check out the titles on the *DHS HOT Summer Reading List.***

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# DHS Summer Reading Program 2009

## Guys



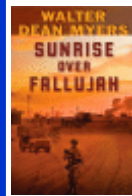
**Shift** by Jennifer Bradbury. YA. When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to

know what happened.  
[F BRADBURY]

**Heat** by Mike Lupica. YA. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.



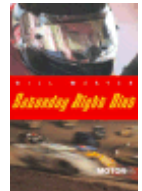
[F LUPICA]



**Sunrise Over Fallujah** by Walter Dean Myers. YA. Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his

time there profoundly changes him.  
[F MYERS]

**Saturday Night Dirt** by Will Weaver. YA. In a small town in northern Minnesota, the much-anticipated Saturday night dirt-track race at the old-fashioned, barely viable, Headwaters Speedway becomes, in many ways, an important life-changing event for all the participants on and off the track.



[F WEAVER]

## FYI



**The Wikipedia Revolution: How a Bunch of Nobodies Created the World's Greatest Encyclopedia** by Andrew Lih. Examines the history and popularity of

Wikipedia, a multilingual Internet encyclopedia that features informative articles written by volunteers and edited by anyone.  
[031 LIH]

**21, Bringing Down the House Movie Tie-in: The Inside Story of Six MIT Students Who Took Vegas for Millions** by Ben Mezrich. Describes how a group of overachieving, anarchist MIT students, joined a



decades-old underground blackjack club dedicated to counting cards and beating the system at major casinos around the world, managed to legally take several Las Vegas casinos for more than three million dollars. [364.172 MEZ]

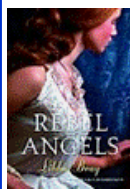
**When March Went Mad: The Game That Transformed Basketball** by Seth Davis. Chronicles the 1979 season for the Michigan State Spartans and the Indiana State Sycamores, which culminated with the NCAA



finals in which Earvin "Magic" Johnson played against Larry Bird, a game which altered the history of basketball. [796.3236 DAV]

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## Girls



**Rebel Angels** by Libba Bray. YA. Gemma and her friends from the Spence Academy return to the realms to defeat her foe, Circe, and to bind the magic that has been released. [F BRAY]

**The Sweet Far Thing** by Libba Bray. YA. At Spence Academy, sixteen-year-old Gemma Doyle continues preparing for her London debut while struggling to determine how best to use magic to resolve a power struggle in the enchanted world of the realms, and to protect her own world and loved ones. [F BRAY]



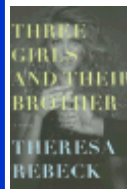
**Evermore** by Alyson Noel. YA. Since the car accident that claimed the lives of her family, sixteen-year-old Ever can see auras and hear people's thoughts, and she goes out of her way to hide from other people until she meets Damen, another psychic teenager who is hiding even more mysteries. [F NOEL]



**The Adoration of Jenna Fox** by Mary E. Pearson. YA. In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident

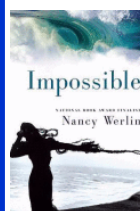


and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence. [F PEARSON]



**Three Girls and Their Brother: A Novel** by Theresa Rebeck. Three young women find themselves easy prey for the sharks of show business when they are offered modeling careers, but an incident with a famous movie star causes them to reevaluate their lives and relationships with one another. [F REBECK]

**Pretty Little Liars** by Sara Sheppard. YA. When one of their tightly-knit group mysteriously disappears, four high school girls find their friendship difficult to maintain when they begin receiving taunting messages from someone who seems to know everything about their past and present secrets. [F SHEPPARD]



**Impossible: A Novel** by Nancy Werlin. YA. When seventeen-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes to break the curse she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born in order to save them both. [F WERLIN]

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## Teens



**Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist** by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan. YA. A novel told in chapters alternating between Nick and Norah, following the pair over the course of twenty-four hours that begin when Nick, seeing his ex-girlfriend walk into the club where he is performing with a new guy, asks Norah, a stranger, to pose as his girlfriend for about five minutes, only to find their feelings engaged after they share a kiss. [F COHN]

**Paper Towns** by John Green. YA. One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's



neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears. [F GREEN]



**Lemonade Mouth** by Mark Peter Hughes. YA. A disparate group of high school students thrown together in detention form a band to play at a school talent show and end up competing with a wildly popular local rock band. [F HUGHES]

**Rest of Her Life** by Laura Moriarty. Leigh's strained relationship with her eighteen-year-old daughter, Kara, is put to the test after Kara accidentally kills another teenaged girl--an event that forces Leigh to also deal with her resentment toward her husband and her feelings about her mother. [F MORIARTY]

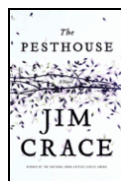


## Survival



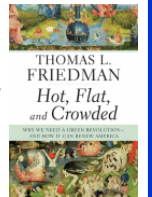
**The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins. YA. In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. [F COLLINS]

**The Pesthouse** by Jim Crace. After being separated from each other while trying to escape a post-apocalyptic United



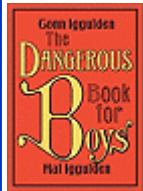
States by boarding a ship to Europe, Franklin, a man who was injured and left behind by his brother, and Margaret, a woman with a deadly infection, reunite and decide to try and live inland. [F CRACE]

**Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution --And How It Can Renew America** by Thomas L. Friedman. Argues that the United States needs to adopt an environmentally friendly national strategy to be healthier, wealthier, and more secure, innovative, and productive. [333.7907 FRI]

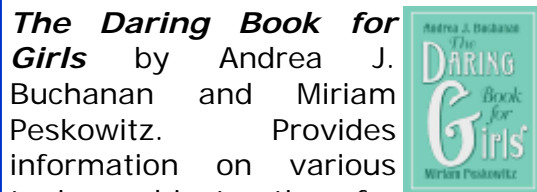


# DHS Summer Reading Program 2009

## Nothing To Do



**The Dangerous Book for Boys** by Conn Iggulden and Hal Iggulden. A collection of entertainments geared toward boys, containing accounts of famous battles, William Shakespeare quotations, games, and instructions for activities such as building a go-cart, cutting flint heads, making an electromagnet, and folding the "greatest paper airplane in the world." [646.7008 IGG]



**The Daring Book for Girls** by Andrea J. Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz. Provides information on various topics and instructions for several activities, covering women spies, the Bill of Rights, friendship bracelets, paper airplanes, cartwheels, games, changing a tire, and others. [646.7008 BUC]



**It Girl Knits : 30 Fresh Styles for the Young and Fabulous** by Phoenix Bess. Contains instructions for thirty knitting projects designed by sixteen-year-old author Phoenix Bess, including felted boots, a metallic miniskirt, sheath dress, purses, shrug, and other items. [746.43 BES]



**Felt Jewelry : 25 Pieces to Make Using a Variety of Simple Felting Techniques** by Teresa Searle. Presents directions for making twenty-five felt jewelry items, such as bracelets, necklaces, earrings, bangles, hair decorations, scarves, brooches, and more, with accents that incorporate stitching, beading, and dyeing. [746.0463 SEA]

## Pictures



**Batman: The Dark Knight Returns** by Frank Miller. YA. Ten years after his retirement, a troubled Batman returns to the streets, evening the score with criminals in an increasingly violent manner, which brings trouble from the police and a gang called the Mutants and a conflict with Superman. Graphic Novel. [F MILLER]



**The Invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick. YA. When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. [F SELZNICK]

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## Quality



***The White Tiger: A Novel*** by Aravind Adiga. Balram Halwai is a complicated man. Servant. Philosopher. Entrepreneur. Murderer. Over the course of seven nights, by the scattered light of a preposterous chandelier, Balram tells the terrible and transfixing story of how he came to be a success in life -- having nothing but his own wits to help him along. World Literature - India. [F ADIGA]

***On Chesil Beach*** by Ian McEwan. Florence, a talented musician, marries Edward, a young history student, in 1962, honestly believing her sincere love for him might overcome the repulsion she feels at the thought of a physical relationship, but the events of their wedding night put their lives on very different courses from what they had anticipated. [F MCEWAN]



***A Mercy*** by Toni Morrison. Florens, a sixteen-year-old slave on a Virginia plantation is given to a Dutch trader named Jacob Vaark as payment for a debt owed to Vaark by her master, and moves to his small Northern farm where her presence is felt keenly by Vaark's childless wife Rebekka, Native American servant Lina, and Sorrow, a foundling. [F MORRISON]



***Tamar*** by Mal Peet. In England in 1995, fifteen-year-old Tamar, grief-stricken by the puzzling death of her beloved grandfather, slowly begins to uncover the secrets of his life in the Dutch resistance during the last year of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, and the climactic events that forever cast a shadow on his life and that of his family. [F PEET]

***Q & A*** by Vikas Swarup. After winning India's biggest quiz show, Ram Mohammad Thomas is put in jail as authorities question how a poor orphan who has never gone to school could win such a contest. (The movie *Slumdog Millionaire* is based on this book.) World Literature — India. [F SWARUP]



***Revolutionary Road*** by Richard Yates. New York intellectuals Frank and April Wheeler move to the suburbs of Connecticut in 1955 and soon learn that the American dream is not at all what they expected. [F YATES]

***The Bookseller of Kabul*** by Asne Seierstand. Asne Seierstand tells of her experiences while staying with a bookseller named Sultan Khan and his family in Afghanistan just after the fall of the Taliban, describing what it was like for families in the country to adjust to a new way of life and a new government. [B SEIERSTAND]



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## Follow the Clues



***People of the Book*** by Geraldine Brooks. Rare book expert Hanna Heath discovers a number of tiny artifacts hidden within the binding of a fifteenth-century Hebrew manuscript and begins to unravel the mysteries behind its past. [F BROOKS]

***Hold Tight*** by Harlan Coben. Mike and Tia Baye, worried about their sixteen-year-old son Adam, wrestle with whether to spy on his computer, and discover details about their son's friend Spencer's suicide while a killer stalks the neighborhood. [F COBEN]



***The Dirty Secrets Club*** by Meg Gardner. Jo Beckett, a forensic psychiatrist with the San Francisco Police Department, is hired to investigate the lives of several prominent people who committed suicide and discovers that an organization called the Dirty Secrets Club is behind the deaths and that a former member may be responsible for the incidents. [F GARDNER]

***The Book of Air and Shadows*** by Michael Gruber. Intellectual property lawyer Jake Mishkin and bookstore employee Albert Crosetti discover a Jacobean document that suggests the existence of an unknown Shake-



speare play, and realize their lives are in danger when the Shakespearean scholar they are working with is murdered. [F GRUBER]



***Ghost at Work*** by Carolyn Hart. Bailey Ruth Raeburn, always great at solving mysteries, is thrilled to discover in death that she can play an even bigger role in lending a helping hand--especially when she sees that there is a dead man on the porch of Kathleen, a pastor's wife, and that the pastor is sure to become a suspect. [F HART]

***The Garden of Evil*** by David Hewson. Roman detective Nic Costa, having discovered a brutal murder in an art studio, relies on the clues in a Caravaggio painting found at the crime scene to find the killer and uncover a deadly secret. [F HEWSON]



***No One You Know: A Novel*** by Michelle Richmond. Twenty years after her sister, Lila, is murdered, Ellie Enderlin has a chance encounter with the man accused of the crime, who gives Ellie her sister's notebook, filled with mathematical equations and clues that will lead Ellie on a journey into the past that offers startling revelations about her sister's life. [F RICHMOND]