

BETHPAGE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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John DeTommaso
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology

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Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

Bethpage Schools had a very successful **Summer Reading** program for all students entering grades 3-11 last summer. We will be continuing the program this summer. Reading is the single most important skill students need to master for success in school. We find a direct correlation between the number of books a child reads and how well he/she does in school, on the assessments and eventually on the SAT. More importantly, reading can bring great joy, fulfillment and personal reward.

The enclosed list, which consists of both popular titles and historical titles, was prepared by a committee of teachers, administrators, and librarians based on student and parent feedback. This year students will read **TWO** books from the enclosed list. Students will select one book from List A (*Popular Titles*) and one book from List B (*Historical Titles*) for their grade level. To offer more options, any student in any grade level may also choose a popular title or historical title from the Wildcard list as a substitute choice.

Students will be assessed with a short quiz on the reading as soon as they return to school in September. Students unable to demonstrate an understanding of the reading will find a comment on their Report Card (and eventual college transcript) which says "Summer Reading Requirement Not Fulfilled."

The list of books is varied and parents are encouraged to review the booklist with their children to choose a title that matches their interest. All of the books may be purchased online via sources like Amazon.com as well as at the local Barnes and Noble and Borders bookstores that have stocked extra copies. The Bethpage Public Library, the JFK Middle School Library and the Bethpage High School Library all have copies as well. Anyone having trouble securing a book should call the Instruction and Technology Office which will assist anyone in need.

Teachers will be available to help students who are having difficulty reading or comprehending the books on the following dates:

- **July 22 from 9AM to Noon in the Administration Building's Board Room**
- **August 11 from Noon to 3PM in the Administration Building's Board Room**
- **August 24 from 9AM to Noon in the Administration Building's Board Room**
- **September 15 right after school in the school Library for two hours**

Students may bring questions or concerns with them to receive small group assistance. This worked out very well last year. In September, students will answer brief multiple choice quizzes on the two books they read. **The English classes will be quizzed on September 16 and the Social Studies classes will be quizzed on September 22.**

The Bethpage School District has seen a dramatic increase in student academic performance over the past several years. We need to build on that solid academic foundation. The book lists are posted to our website (www.bethpagecommunity.com/Schools) if you need additional information. There are also short videos that describe the choices. As always, you should feel free to contact my office at 516-644-4005 or via email at idgetommaso@bethpage.ws. We were all proud of our students for taking this so seriously last summer. We are confident we will have similar success this year!

Sincerely hoping you enjoy your summer reading,

John DeTommaso
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology

Bethpage High School

Summer Reading List 2010

Select one book from List A and one book from List B for your grade level.

Grade Sept. 2010	List A <i>Popular Titles</i>	List B <i>Historical Titles</i>
9th	<u>Rumble Fish</u> – S. E. Hinton	<u>Fever, 1793</u> – Laurie Halse Anderson
	<u>Driver's Ed</u> – Caroline B. Cooney	<u>Persepolis</u> – Marjane Satrapi
	<u>Black Mirror</u> – Nancy Werlin	<u>Soldier Boys</u> – Dean Hughes
	<u>Murder on the Orient Express</u> –Agatha Christie	<u>Surviving Hitler</u> –Andrea Warren
10th	<u>Son of the Mob</u> – Gordon Korman	<u>Under the Persimmon Tree</u> – Suzanne Fisher Staples
	<u>Monster</u> – Walter Dean Myers	<u>Ties that Bind</u> – Lensey Namioka
	<u>Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis</u> –by Pete Nelson and Hunter Scott	<u>All Quiet on the Western Front</u> -Erich Maria Remarque
	<u>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</u> –Mark Haddon	<u>Gandhi: His Life and Message for the World</u> – Louis Fischer
11th	<u>Before We Were Free</u> —Julia Alvarez	<u>Fallen Angels</u> – Walter Dean Myers
	<u>Bleachers</u> —John Grisham	<u>Hiroshima</u> – John Hersey
	<u>The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream</u> —Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt	<u>Nickel and Dimed: on (not) getting by in America</u> – Barbara Ehrenreich
	<u>The Color of Water</u> – James McBride	<u>The Day the World Came to Town: 9-11 in Gander, Newfoundland</u> - Jim DeFede
	<u>Swallowing Stones</u> –Joyce McDonald	

*****WILDCARD**- May be substituted for any Popular Title on any grade level. (List A)

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

*****WILDCARD**-May be substituted for any Historical Title on any grade level. (List B)

Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

9th Grade

Black Mirror by Nancy Werlin

Convinced her brother's death was murder rather than suicide, sixteen-year-old Frances begins her own investigation into suspicious student activities at her boarding school.

Driver's Ed by Caroline B. Cooney

Three teenagers' lives are changed forever when they take part in a prank that turns deadly and they have to face up to their part in the tragedy.

Rumble Fish by S.E. Hinton

A junior high school boy idolizes his older brother, the coolest, toughest guy in the neighborhood, and wants to be just like him.

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

A remarkable set of characters, each a secretive soul, assemble for a journey on the Orient Express train as it travels from Istanbul to Paris. On hand to resolve the murder of an American passenger is Hercule Poirot, the dapper Belgian detective.

Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

Contains black-and-white comic strip images in which the author shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under control of the Islamic regime.

Soldier Boys by Dean Hughes

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

Surviving Hitler by Andrea Warren

Jack Mandelbaum was 12 when the Nazis came to Poland in 1939. At first the thought of war was "thrilling." Then he saw his prosperous, happy home torn apart, and he spent three years as a teenager in the death camps in Germany, where he survived by a combination of courage, friendship, and luck.

10th Grade

Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis by Pete Nelson and Hunter Scott

Torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, the Indianapolis went down in minutes, taking more than 800 sailors with it. Several hundred survived, but only after spending days in the open sea with sharks diminishing their numbers hourly.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon

When his neighbor's poodle is killed and the 15-year old autistic narrator, Christopher, is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer.

Ties that Bind by Lensey Namioka

Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

Depicts the experiences of a group of young German soldiers fighting and suffering during the last days of World War I.

Under the Persimmon Tree by Suzanne Fisher Staples

A young Afghan girl, Najmah, befriends an American woman, Nusrat in Peshawar, Pakistan, after Najmah flees her native Afghanistan during the 2001 war; and together they begin a long journey to locate their missing loved ones.

Gandhi: His Life and Message for the World by Louis Fischer

Gandhi's life and message can be a life-changing experience for one willing to think about his search for Truth, and his unwillingness to compromise even in the face of seemingly insurmountable opposition.

11th Grade

Bleachers by John Grisham

When his old coach dies, high school football star Neely Crenshaw returns to his hometown after fifteen years, reunites with his former teammates, and struggles to resolve his mixed feelings about the man.

Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.

The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream by Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins and Rameck Hunt

Filled with drama, courage, temptation, and ultimately, triumph, this is the uplifting story of three teenaged boys from broken homes in Newark, NJ who pledged to support one another in realizing their dreams.

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride

An African-American male tells of his mother, a white woman, who refused to admit her true identity.

Swallowing Stones by Joyce McDonald

When 17-year-old Michael discovers that he has accidentally killed the father of a schoolmate, he wrestles with his own guilt until he can no longer keep his terrible secret.

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Hiroshima by John Hersey

The story of six people who lived through the explosion of the atomic bomb in 1945 in Hiroshima.

Nickel and Dimed: On (not) getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

The author relates her experiences from 1998 to 2000, during which time she joined the ranks of the working poor as a waitress, cleaning woman, and Wal-Mart clerk to see for herself how America's "unskilled" workers are able to survive on only \$6 or \$7 an hour.

11th Grade Continued

The Day the World Came to Town: 9-11 in Gander, Newfoundland - Jim DeFede

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, 38 commercial airliners carrying over 6,000 passengers were forced, as a precautionary measure, to land in Gander, Newfoundland, Canada. The message of the book is how, even in times of great turmoil and conflict, people can and must look to one another for comfort, help, and hope.

Wildcard Choices

Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

For 12 days after his brazen assassination of Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth was at large, and in *Manhunt*, historian James L. Swanson tells the vivid, fully documented tale of his escape and the wild, massive pursuit.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

When Lily's beloved nanny, Rosaleen, manages to insult a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote and has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina--determined to find out more about her dead mother.

