

Portland High School / Portland Library

2009 Suggested Summer Reading List for Grades 9 & 10

***Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel**

Taking place in a future where airships and blimps travel across the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, cabin boy Matt Cruse, on board the *Aurora*, battles pirates and prehistoric cloudcats.

***All's Fair in Love, War, and High School* by Janette Rallison**

Samantha has bombed her SATs. What can she do to redeem herself in the eyes of college admissions? Head cheerleader isn't exactly awe inspiring so she campaigns for student body president.

***Avalon High* by Meg Cabot**

Too many coincidences, like being named after the Lady of Shalott and her friend's complicated family life, make Elaine feel as though she is living in a modern day Camelot.

***Backwater* by Joan Bauer**

Ivy Breedlove resists being good at the family tradition. For many generations the Breedloves have been successful lawyers, but Ivy is in love with history, especially the family history she is compiling.

***Benny and Omar* by Eoin Colfer**

As the hurling champion at Saint Jerome's school, Benny Shaw thinks his life's perfect life until his parents move the family to North Africa. There's no place for a sarcastic, self-centered kid like Benny.

***Blue Latitudes: Boldly Going Where Captain Cook Has Gone Before* by Tony Horwitz**

Captain James Cook's epic 18th-century explorations of the Pacific Ocean were the last of their kind. In retracing key legs of the circumnavigator's journey, journalist Tony Horwitz chronicles its cultural and environmental havoc.

***Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

Death narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger. Liesel collects stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: Rudy, the refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife, and her foster parents.

***The Bridesmaid* by Hailey Abbott**

Since her parents own a catering hall, Abby Beaumont knows all about weddings; they make women turn into "Bridezillas." The sisters have sworn to remain unmarried, but her sister meets Tucker Robb.

***The Boxer* by Kathleen Karr**

In the tenements of Manhattan, there is mostly sweatshop labor for the city's immigrant population. Since Johnny Woods is desperate to find enough work to support his fatherless family, he investigates boxing.

***Car Trouble* by Jeanne Duprau**

Recent high-school grad and computer-whiz, Duff Pringle is on a cross-country road trip, headed from home in Virginia to a California job. Alas, life on the road doesn't run as smoothly as a computer.

***Cheating Lessons* by Nan Willard Cappo**

Students at second-rate Wickham High School are stunned to have beaten Pinehurst in a qualifying exam for an academic quiz bowl. The numbers just don't seem to add up, and Bernadette is leary.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* by Mark Haddon**

When Christopher discovers his neighbor's dog savagely stabbed to death, he decides to use the deductive reasoning to solve the crime. Using the logic of Sherlock Holmes is not easy, and in his case, it is particularly daunting.

***Dunk* by David Lubar**

On the boardwalk in a New Jersey shore town, Chad becomes entranced by Bozo, the clown in the dunk tank. It occurs to him that he can become a Bozo, too.

***Eragon* by Christopher Paolini**

Eragon thinks he has found a polished blue stone, but later it hatches into a majestic sapphire blue dragon. His decision to keep and to raise Saphira starts him on an epic journey.

***Feed* by M.T. Anderson**

Until he meets Violet, Titus had never questioned his world in which parents select their babies' attributes in the conceptionarium, corporations dominate the information stream, and kids learn to employ the feed more efficiently in school.

***The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom**

Eddie, the head maintenance person at an amusement park, dies in a tragic accident. He learns that heaven is a place where five people explain his earthly life to him.

***Heaven* by Angela Johnson**

What makes a person who she is? Is it her name, the people she lives with, or is blood the only link to identity? Marley suddenly plunges head first into these complex questions when she discovers that she's not living with her real parents.

***Leaving Protection* by Will Hobbs**

Having grown up in Port Protection on Prince of Wales Island in southeastern Alaska, Robbie is no stranger to fishing. Now that he's old enough to work as a deckhand, he tries to pursue his dream on a commercial trawler.

***The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie**

With wrenching pain and wry humor, the talented Alexie, a Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian presents contemporary life on the Spokane Indian Reservation through 22 linked stories.

***Memory Boy* by Will Weaver**

Two years after Mount Rainier and other volcanoes erupted, ashy fallout is destroying the environment. Miles and his family head for their vacation cottage to wait out the chaos, but squatters force the family to change their plans.

***Notes from the Midnight Driver* by Jordan Sonnenblick**

Alex decides to get drunk and steals his mom's car. His community service orders him to visit Solomon Lewis, the crankiest resident at an old age home.

***Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam**

Inspired by Werner von Braun and his Cape Canaveral team, 14-year-old Homer Hickam decided to build his own rockets in 1957. They were his ticket out of Coalwood, West Virginia, a dying mining town. He grew up to be a NASA engineer and his memoir is rich in humor and warm sentiment.

***Secret Life of Sparrow Delaney* by Suzanne Harper**

As the seventh daughter of a psychic, great things are expected of Sparrow, but she wants nothing to do with spirit guides and ghosts. Her plan to avoid the psychic world unravels when she meets a teen ghost named Luke.

***Somewhere in the Darkness* by Walter Dean Myers**

Jimmy Little's convict father takes him on a search for truth, identity, and family. Whisked away from his devoted grandmother, Jimmy confronts the harsh realities of his father's life on the run.

***The Spellman Files* by Lisa Lutz**

Izzy Spellman, an irrepressible 28-year-old sleuth, works for her parents' San Francisco PI firm. Addicted to *Get Smart* reruns and forever attracted to the wrong kind of men, Izzy Spellman is definitely an appealing heroine.

***Summer of '49* by David Halberstram**

Baseball came of age during the summer of 1949 and the pennant race was between the Yankees and Red Sox. Post World War II America looked to baseball for a sense of normalcy in its life, television began to have an impact on the sport, and Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier.

***Thieves Like Us* by Stephen Cole**

Jonah Wish, a brilliant computer hacker, is the newest addition to an elite group of teen outlaws all hired by the same mysterious benefactor. Under Coldhart's watchful eye, this motley crew races to exotic locations where they hunt for priceless artifacts that may bring riches or the secret to eternal life.

***This Lullaby* by Sarah Dessen**

Remy never knew her father, but everyone knows the song he wrote for her, "This Lullaby," a tune with the line, "I will let you down." Well, he did, and Remy expects every boy to do the same thing.

***Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer**

Bella Swan opts to move to her dad's cabin in the dreary, rainy town of Forks, WA. She becomes intrigued, falls in love with Edward Cullen, a disarmingly handsome senior. The resulting volatile romance smolders as they attempt to hide Edward's true identity.

***Two-way Street* by Lauren Barnholdt**

Courtney McSweeney is psyched to drive cross-country with her boyfriend to attend Boston University together, but her plans go awry when Jordan dumps her. Unbelievably, her parents force her to make the trip anyway, thinking it will teach her a lesson about sticking to plans.