

# Portland High School / Portland Library

## 2010 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.

### ***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 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.

### ***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.

### ***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.

***The Knife of Never Letting Go (Chaos Walking Series #1) by Patrick Ness***

Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, and he knows that the town is hiding something from him — something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog, whose simple, loyal voice he hears too. With hostile men from the town in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn't she killed by the germ like all the females on New World?

***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.

***Make Lemonade (Make Lemonade Trilogy #1) by Virginia Euwer Wolff***

LaVaughn needed a part-time job. What she got was a baby-sitting gig with Jolly, an unwed teen mother. With two kids hanging in the balance, they need to make the best out of life -- and they can only do it for themselves and each other.

***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.

***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.

***Unwind by Neal Shusterman***

In this futuristic novel, set after the Second Civil War (Between the Pro-Life and Pro-Choice armies), three teens are trying to escape the Harvest Camp in which teens can be "unwound" and used for transplants and plastic surgery upgrades.

***Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher***

Despite his natural ability, T.J. has steered away from organized sports until he's asked to help form a swim team.