

Bohemia Manor High School 9th Grade Summer Reading List

(F) = Fiction

(NF) = Nonfiction

Italics = Reviews

Andromeda Strain, The. Crichton, Michael. Five day history of a major American scientific crisis. *This was the first Michael Crichton book I ever read. I discovered it when I was in junior high school, and from there I went on to become an avid reader of science and medical fiction. Although this book was written almost 20 years ago, it's still scary today. (Perhaps even more so after the events of September 11th.) Crichton has a way of keeping up the suspense while still making the characters believable. It remains one of my "must read" books.*

(F) Reading Level-6.5; Lexile Level-840

Call of the Wild, The. London, Jack. Rugged outdoor story of the sled dog, Buck, who was mistreated by his master and broke free to roam the Alaskan wilderness. *I liked this book because you get to see what it would be like in the wilderness of the north. Another reason is because I am a huge animal lover and this book showed me what the sled dogs have to go through. I loved this book and I think that if you like animal stories, so will you.*

(F) Reading Level-7.0; Lexile Level-1170 ***

December Stillness. Downing-Hahn, Mary. Thirteen-year-old Kelly tries to befriend Mr. Weems, a disturbed, homeless Vietnam veteran who spends his days in the library though he makes it clear he wants to be left alone. *This is a great, easy-to-read story of a girl who wants to get to know a veteran for a school paper. The book is great!!! You can get inside of Kelly's head and feel what she feels. When with her friends I could totally understand what was going on in her mind.*

(F) Reading Level-6.0; Lexile Level-860 ***

Hobbit, The. Tolkien, J.R.R. The delightful tale which first creates the fantasy called Middle Earth and its charming dwarf-like creatures, the Hobbits. *Dear Mr Tolkien, I have just finished reading your book for the 11th time and I want to tell you what I think of it. I think it is the most wonderful book I have ever read. It is beyond description... Gee Whiz, I am surprised that it's not more popular...If you have written any other books, would you please send me their names?*

(F) Reading Level-7.5; Lexile Level-1000

Hot Zone, The. Preston, Richard. A book that argues that dangerous viruses like HIV have emerged with the destruction of jungles and rain forests in Africa. *I found the book interesting. It is scary to think that something that lethal comes from nature. I liked the book, because it kept your interest to see what was going to happen next. I think this book would be good for other students to read. Makes you think how lucky we are not to have these viruses in our country. The scary thing is the virus seems to change. I really enjoyed the book.*

(NF) Reading Level-7.5; Lexile Level-1030

Lord of the Flies. Golding, William. The classic tale of a group of English school boys who are left stranded on an unpopulated island, and who must confront not only the defects of their society but the defects of their own natures. *This book is the best yet written about the true nature of man. I'm sure a lot of readers say, "If it were me on that island, things would've worked." If presented with the situation, we'd ALL be savages. Every single one of us. It's just mankind's nature. Anyway, this book is not only exciting, insightful, gritty, and realistic, it's also very truthful. Read this book and see for yourself.*

(F) Reading Level-8.0; Lexile Level-770

Martian Chronicles. Bradbury, Ray. Leaving behind a world on the brink of destruction, man came to Mars and found Martians waiting. While seeking a new beginning, man nevertheless brought with him his oldest fears and deepest desires. Man conquered Mars, but in that instant, Mars conquered him. *I have just finished reading this book for my outside reading assignment. When I first saw the book, I had no idea it was going to be what it was. I was expecting some typical sci-fi book with aliens crashing to earth, or maybe vice versa. But the way Bradbury presented the whole essence of the book was so thought provoking. He really made you think about if what he wrote could really happen.*

(F) Reading Level-7.0; Lexile Level-740 ***

October Sky (also titled **Rocket Boys**). Hickam, Homer. A memoir of the author's bumpy ride toward a gold medal at the National Science Fair in 1960 after he becomes fascinated with rockets when he sees Spunik over his West Virginia coal mining town. *Trust me on this one... this is one book you DO NOT want to miss... From the day Sonny (Homer's nickname) first sight of the Sputnik, to the very much crowd-pleasing happy ending, October Sky/Rocket Boys is one book that you'll remember for a long, long time. Trust me on this one, go check this book out.*

(NF) Reading Level-6.0; Lexile Level-900 ***

Outsiders, The. Hinton, S.E. According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. *This classic, written by S. E. Hinton when she was 16 years old, is as profound today as it was when it was first published in 1967. She writes a gripping, compassionate story engrossed in this remarkable, electrifying novel. The book was quite simple to read, but S. E. Hinton makes the reader really get to know the characters and explains their feelings very well.* (F) Reading Level-5.0; Lexile Level-750

Shakespeare Stealer, The. Blackwood, Gary. A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of Hamlet, but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty. *The book is a fast paced novel for kids and teens. There is some historical information about Elizabethan England that I enjoyed. The title includes Shakespeare, but not much is said of the playwright in the novel. The reason I would give this book 4 stars instead of 5 is that a little twist in it is quite predictable. The major ending isn't. If you want something that will take you two nights to read, try this book.*

(F) Reading Level-5.0; Lexile Level-840 ***

*** These books are available at your high school to be borrowed on a first-come, first-served basis.