

Pentucket Reads 2010

Pentucket Reads is a summer reading program designed to celebrate reading while keeping students' minds engaged during the summer vacation.

The list below includes both fiction and nonfiction and is organized by subject area for ease of searching; however, many books are interdisciplinary. The *starred books are good for underclassman and reluctant readers. Students should choose books that are intriguing, and any students who needs help choosing a book should see Ms. Costello in the library.

Students will read a book, write a review for their book (see example below), and post it (beginning the week of August 30) to the discussion for that book/project on School Loop. We encourage students to continue an online discussion by responding to other people's posts about their book. The reviews will be provided to your teachers. Students who participate fully in the *Pentucket Reads* summer reading program, will have an opportunity to win prizes like gift certificates for pizza, Dunkin Donuts, I-tunes and much more. Students who read two or more books or post multiple discussions about the book will have their names entered into the prize pot as many times as they post.

Writing the Review

A review is part summary and part recommendation. You should give enough description to prove you read the book and give specific examples to support your like/dislike of the book. Include the title (underlined) and the author somewhere near the beginning of the review. If you use a quote, cite the page number. Write your review in MS Word first so you can spell check and edit. Then copy and paste it on to the SchoolLoop Group discussion for that book/project. Reminder: SchoolLoop is a transparent school-based tool. Teachers, parents, administrators, and all students can access all the discussions. Also be reminded, plagiarizing other reviews will be punished according to the student handbook.

Example of review:

If you like the Civil War, but wish history read more like a novel then The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara is the book for you. The story of the generals who led troops at Gettysburg is a gripping, roller coaster ride. The following excerpt exemplifies the drama of war, "He was out in the open, waving his hat, pointing to a grove of trees. A moment later Buford looked that way and the horse was bare-backed. He did not believe it. He broke off and rode to see. Reynolds lay in the dirt road, the aides bending over him. When Buford got there the thick stain had already puddle the dirt beneath his head.... The battled went on without a commander." (96) Shaara takes the reader day-by-day through the battle and back and forth between confederate and Union perspectives. A prime example is when Buford and Gamble arrive on the ridge over looking Gettysburg, "Do you see any cavalry?" Gamble swept the horizon, shook his head. Strange. Infantry moving alone in enemy country. Blind. Very Strange."(34) In the next chapter, the reader is introduced to Longstreet's perspective on the same day, "What bothered him most was the blindness. Jeb Stuart had not returned. The army moved all day in enemy country and they had not even known what was around the next bend." (49) This book will appeal to those military history buffs who like the strategy of battle but also to social historians who like the intimacy of human relationships between characters. The humanity of Longstreet is clear in his memories of his three children's death, "Longstreet took a deep breath. In the winter the fever had come to Richmond In a week they were all dead. All within a week, all three. He saw the sweet faces: moment of enormous pain." (127) This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is a model of great historical fiction and should not to be ignored.

Note to Parents

If you disagree with a book chosen by your child, merely have them choose another book from the list and then have them see Ms. Costello when school starts and she will give them access to the new group through School Loop.

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Timeline

October -March Student & Faculty input
Week of April 26 Assigned to students through Social Studies classes
Week of May 3 Sign-up for book(s) in English Classes
Week of May 10 Ms. Costello confirms sign-ups
May, June, July, August READ!!
September 1-12 Post reviews to School Loop

SCIENCE & HEALTH

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba
Crazy for the Storm: A Memoir of Survival by Norman Ollestad
*Stitches by David Small
Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith by Deborah Heiligman
Mortal Lessons Richard Selzer Recommended by Mrs. Foss
The Demon in the Freezer by Richard Preston
The Mystery of the Periodic Table by Benjamin Wiker

ENGLISH

*Front and Center by Catherine Murdock (Sequel to Dairy Queen Series)
*Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins (Sequel to Hunger Games)
*A Brief History of Montmaray by Michelle Cooper
*Hush Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick
The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown (Mr. Angelli)
A Year in Provence by Peter Mayle (Mrs. Merritt)
Secret Son by Laila Lalami (Mrs. Merritt)
*I am the Messenger by Mark Zusak (Ms. Ducolon)
Lie Down with Lions by Ken Follett (Mrs. Treado)
Sometimes a Great Notion by Ken Kesey. (Mr. Walsh)
*Graceling by Kristin Cashore
Gateway by Sharon Shinn
Once Was Lost by Sara Zarr
Flash Burnout by L.K. Madigan
The Other Side of Blue by Valerie O. Patterson
*Going Bovine by Libba Bray
*Witch and Wizard by James Patterson
*Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia
Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann
Changing My Mind: Occasional Essays by Zadie Smith
*Girl at Sea by Maureen Johnson
*Peony in Love by Lisa See
The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton recommended by Mrs. Merritt
*Lips Touch: Three Times by Laini Taylor

*Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco Stork
*Liar by Justine Larbalestier
Strength in What Remains by Tracy Kidder
Hunger of Memory by Richard Rodriguez Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Bright-Sided by Barbara Ehrenreich Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Slouching Towards Bethlehem: Essays by Joan Didion Recommended by Mrs. Foss
An American Childhood by Annie Dillard Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Desert Solitaire by Edward Abbey Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Getting Home Alive by Aurora Levins Morales Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Road From Coorain by Jill Conway Recommended by Mrs. Foss
The Dragons of Eden by Carl Sagan Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Woman Hollering Creek by Sandra Cisneros Recommended by Mrs. Foss
*Everything Bad is Good for You by Steven Johnson Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Refuge By Terry Williams Recommended by Mrs. Foss
*When the Game was Ours by Larry Bird
*Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld
*Jellicoe Road by Melina Marchetta (recommended Kelsie Mitchell, Ms. Costello and Ms. Merritt,
The Land of Green Plums by Herta Muller
*The Secret to Teen Power by Paul Harrington
*The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin

MATH

One Hundred Essential Things You Didn't Know You Didn't Know: Math Explains Your World by John D. Barrow
*Mythematics: Solving the Twelve Labors of Hercules by Michael Huber
Mathematics in 10 Lessons: The Grand Tour by Jerry King
The Calculus of Friendship by Steven Strogatz

HISTORY

*Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson
*Stop Me If You've Heard This: A History and Philosophy of Jokes by Jim Holt
The White Queen by Phillipa Gregory (Mrs. Merritt & Angela Brown)

Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall
The Wordy Shipmates by Sarah Vowell
Recommended by Mrs. Foss
War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning Chris Hedges
Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Demagogue: The Fight to Save Democracy from Its Worst Enemies by Michael Signer
Recommended by Mrs. Foss
Where Men Win Glory by Jon Krakauer
*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Shaffer and Barrows (Ms. Costello)
The Big Burn by Timothy Egan
Liberty and Tyranny by Mark R. Levin (Angela Brown)
True Compass by Edward M. Kennedy (Angela Brown)
A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity by Bill O'Reilly (Angela Brown)
The Indifferent Stars Above by Daniel James Brown
Recommended by Mrs. Foss
*The Book Thief by Mark Zusak (Mrs. Brackbill)
In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O'Brien

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

If you choose to read one of these you should give a good interpretation of the book and your review must be in the foreign language.

Le vieux juif blonde-Amanda Sthers (French)
L'idée fixe-Paul Valéry (French)
*Der Goldene Kompass by Philip Pullman (German)
*El Ratoncito de la Moto by Beverly Cleary (Spanish)
La Suma de los Dias by Isabel Allende (Spanish)

FINE ARTS

*Eating the Dinosaur by Chuck Klosterman
Music and The Mind by Anthony Storr
I, Mona Lisa by Jeanne Kalogrids
Private Lives of the Impressionists by Sue Roe

Where to Find Books

Public Libraries

Merrimac Public Library 978-346-9441
G.A.R. Memorial Library (W. Newbury) 978-363-1105
Langley-Adams Library, (Groweland) 978-372-1732

Local bookstores

Jabberwocky 978-465-9359
The Book Rack 978-462-8615
Barnes and Noble 603-898-1930
Borders 978-689-1999

Online Bookstores

<http://www.amazon.com/>
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

If you would like to read a classic in preparation for college, you could also choose a book off the College Board's List 101 Best books for the College Bound

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/bost-your-skills/23628.html>

For a Book list with link to reviews go to library page of HS website