

**Joseph A. Foran High School
2012 Summer Reading List**

FICTION

Bodeen, S.A. *The Compound*

Fifteen-year old Eli, locked inside a radiation-proof compound built by his father to keep them safe following a nuclear attack, begins to question his future, as well as his father's grip on sanity as the family's situation steadily disintegrates over the course of six years.

Brown, Jennifer *Bitter End*

When seventeen-year-old Alex starts dating Cole, a new boy at her high school, her two closest friends increasingly mistrust him as the relationship grows more serious.

Cashore, Kristin *Graceling*

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

Dashner, James *The Maze Runner*

Sixteen-year old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

DeStefano, Lauren *Wither*

At age sixteen, Rhine Ellery has four years to live. Thanks to a botched effort to create a perfect race, all females live to be twenty, and males live to age twenty-five. While geneticists seek a miracle antidote, orphans roam the streets and polygamy abounds. After Rhine is kidnapped and sold as a bride, she is desperate to escape from her husband's strange world, which includes a sinister father-in-law in search of the antidote and a slew of sister wives who are not to be trusted. On the cusp of her seventeenth birthday, Rhine attempts to flee but what she finds is a society spiraling into anarchy.

Deuker, Carl *Payback Time*

Overweight, somewhat timid Mitch reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter for the Lincoln High newspaper because he is determined to be a writer, but he senses a real story in Angel, a talented football player who refuses to stand out on the field – or to discuss his past.

Falkner, Brian *Brain Jack*

In a near-future New York City, fourteen-year old computer genius Sam Wilson manages to hack into the AT&T network and sets off a chain of events that have a profound effect on human activity throughout the world.

Fisher, Catherine *Incarceron*

Incarceron is a prison unlike any other. Its inmates live not only in cells but in metal forests, dilapidated cities, and unbounded wilderness. The prison has been sealed for centuries and legend says only one man has ever escaped. A 17 year old prisoner named Finn believes he came from Outside Incarceron. He's determined to escape even though most inmates don't believe that Outside even exists. The Warden's daughter, Claudia, wants to escape an arranged marriage and is willing to help Finn escape. But Finn and Claudia don't realize that Escape will take their greatest courage and cost far more than they know...because Incarceron is ALIVE.

Foer, Jonathan *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Follows nine-year old Oskar Schell as he encounters a number of interesting characters in his search for information about his father, who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and tries to find the lock that fits the mysterious key he left behind.

Frost, Helen *Hidden*

Years after Darra Monson's father stole a minivan with Wren Abbott hiding in the back, the two girls come face to face at summer camp and together they try to work through what happened to them and the impact it had on their lives.

Giles, Gail *What Happened to Cass McBride*

After his younger brother commits suicide, Kyle Kirby decides to exact revenge on the person he holds responsible.

Grant, Michael *Gone*

In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not.

Kraus, Daniel *Rotters*

Sixteen-year old Joey's life takes a very strange turn when his mother's tragic death forces him to move from Chicago to rural Iowa with the father he has never known, and who is the town pariah.

Littman, Sarah Darer *Want to Go Private?*

Insecure about high school, Abby withdraws from everyone but Luke, whom she met online. But when Abby agrees to meet Luke in person, he is not who he claimed to be. When Abby goes missing, everyone is left to put together the pieces in order to find her.

Lu, Marie *Legend*

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year old Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

Marcus, Kimberly *Exposed*

Liz is a sharp, focused, and confident photographer. She's sure that she and Kate will be best friends forever. Everything changes after the girls fight during a sleepover at Liz's house. Suddenly, Kate is ignoring Liz and accusing Liz's brother of a terrible crime. Who does Liz believe...her best friend or her brother? What happens when the picture you see no longer makes sense? What do you do when you may lose everything you love most? The story is told in stunning, raw free verse.

McCall, Guadalupe *Under the Mesquite*

Novel in Verse: Throughout her high school years, as her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry.

Mullen, Mike *Ashfall*

After the eruption of the Yellowstone supervolcano destroys his city and its surroundings, fifteen year old Alex must journey from Iowa to Illinois to find his parents and sister, trying to survive in a transformed landscape and a new society in which all the old rules of living have vanished.

Myers, Walter Dean *Lockdown*

Is it possible for a 14-year old to get a second chance when he's treated like a criminal, handcuffed and thrown into solitary confinement? Reese, serving time in a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past.

Ness, Patrick *Monster Calls*

Thirteen-year old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill-an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.

Northrop, Michael *Trapped*

Seven high school students are stranded at their New England high school during a week-long blizzard that shuts down the power and heat, freezes the pipes, and leaves them wondering if they will survive.

Oliver, Lauren *Delirium*

Lena looks forward to receiving the government-mandated cure that prevents the delirium of love and leads to a safe, predictable, and happy life, until ninety-five days before her eighteenth birthday and her treatment, when she falls in love.

Rosnay, Tatiana de *Sarah's Key*

American journalist Julia Jarmond researches the brutal 1942 Nazi roundup in Paris and stumbles upon a connection between her family and one of the victims, which compels Julia to learn more about the girl's life.

Roth, Veronica *Divergent*

In Chicago of the future all sixteen year olds must choose a societal faction to join: the honest, the selfless, the brave, the peaceful, or the intelligent. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is – she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself. During the highly competitive initiation, Beatrice renames herself and struggles to determine who her friends really are. But she has a secret, one that can mean death. As she discovers a growing conflict that threatens to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves, or it might destroy her.

Shusterman, Neal *Unwind*

Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.

Smith, Roland *Peak*

Daredevil Peak Marcello is caught using his climbing skills to scale skyscrapers. An angry judge grants him probation with the condition that Peak leave New York to live with his mountaineer father in Thailand. Peak soon realizes that his father is trying to ensure that Peak will be the youngest person to ever summit Mount Everest. An exciting adventure story...

Stockett, Kathryn *The Help*

Skeeter returns home to Mississippi from college in 1962 and begins to write stories about the African-American women that are found working in white households, which includes Aibileen, who grieves for the loss of her son while caring for her seventeenth white child, and Minny, Aibileen's sassy friend, the hired cook for a secretive woman who is new to town.

Van Draanen, Wendelin *The Running Dream*

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

Vrettos, Adrienne Maria *Burnout*

Nan wakes up in a subway car the day after Halloween with no clue how she got there. She's made such an effort to get sober, to stop disappointing her family. This just isn't like her anymore. But she can't remember what happened yesterday, and she's wearing skeleton makeup and a too-small Halloween costume. Not good—at all. Did she really go back to her old friends and her old ways? As she uncovers more and more of what happened on Halloween night, Nan begins to realize that this time she may have gone too far.

Volponi, Paul *Rikers High*

Arrested on a minor offense, a New York City teenager attends high school in the jail facility on Rikers Island while waiting for his case to go to court.

Wolf, Allan *The Watch That Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic*

Recreates the 1912 sinking of the Titanic as observed by millionaire John Jacob Astor, a beautiful young Lebanese refugee finding first love, "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, Captain Smith, and others including the iceberg itself.

Printz Award Winner

Whaley, John Corey *Where Things Come Back*

In the remarkable, bizarre and heart-wrenching summer before Cullen Witter's senior year, his cousin dies by overdose, his town becomes obsessed by the alleged reappearance of an extinct woodpecker, and his sensitive, gifted brother inexplicably disappears.

Printz Honor Books

Handler, Daniel *Why We Broke Up*

Sixteen-year old Min Green writes a letter to Ed Slaterton in which she breaks up with him, documenting their relationship and how items in the accompanying box, from bottle caps to a cookbook, foretell the end.

Hindwood, Christine *The Returning*

Set in medieval times, Cam returns to his village after the 12-year war between the Uplanders and the Downlanders. Suspicious questions arise as to how Cam lost his arm and why he was the only soldier from his village to survive. When his engagement is called off, Cam leaves to find the lord who maimed him but spared his life –leaving him to find a new place in the world.

Silvery, Craig *Jasper Jones*

In small town Australia, teens Jasper and Charlie form an unlikely friendship when one asks the other to help him cover up a murder until they can prove who is responsible.

Stiefvater, Maggie *The Scorpio Races*

Nineteen-year old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races, both trying to keep hold of their dangerous water horses long enough to make it to the finish line.

NONFICTION

- Blumenthal, Karen *Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine and the Lawless Years of Prohibition*
- Chronicles the history of Prohibition in the United States, during which time it was illegal to sell or drink alcohol, discussing how what began as a movement to heal social ills, became a burden to ordinary citizens and a boon to criminals.
- Hillenbrand, Laura *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption*
- A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.
- Kennedy, Kostya *56: Joe DiMaggio and the Last Magic Number in Sports*
- Provides an account of Joe DiMaggio's fifty-six consecutive game hitting streak in the summer of 1941, when he was a relatively unknown twenty-six year old player with the New York Yankees, and discusses how the record-breaking accomplishment gripped the attention of the nation in the tense days before the country's entry into World War II.
- Kor, Eva Mozes *Surviving the Angel of Death: the Story of a Mengele Twin in Auschwitz*
- Eva Mozes Kor details the experiences she shared with her twin sister Miriam when they were sent to Auschwitz as children and were forced to endure medical experiments and other horrors under the care of Josef Mengele.
- Krakauer, Jon *Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman*
- Chronicles the riveting, tragic story of former NFL player Pat Tillman, who was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan in 2004, highlighting his remarkable character and personality while closely examining the murky, heartbreaking circumstances of his death.
- Larson, Erik *In the Garden of Beasts*
- William E. Dodd becomes the American ambassador to Germany, where he witnesses first-hand the atrocities of Hitler's regime and watches his daughter fall in love with a Nazi officer.
- Lord, Walter *A Night to Remember*
- A riveting minute by minute account of the sinking of the Titanic, describing the fatal collision and the noble and ignominious behavior of the passengers and crew.
- Manning, Lauren *Unmeasured Strength: My Story of Survival and Transformation*
- Lauren Manning details the challenges she faced after she received burns on eighty percent of her body during the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001, describes her accomplishments on Wall Street before 9/11, and discusses her efforts to make a physical and mental recovery from her injuries.
- Moore, Wes *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*
- The author, a Rhodes scholar and combat veteran, analyzes the various sociocultural factors that influenced him as well as another man of the same name and from the same neighborhood who was drawn into a life of drugs and crimes and ended up serving life in prison.
- Moorehead, Carolyn *A Train in Winter: An Extraordinary Story of Women, Friendship, and Resistance in Occupied France*
- Presents the stories of female members of the French Resistance who, in January 1943, were hunted down by the Gestapo and imprisoned in Auschwitz. Includes interviews with survivors and their families.

Nelson, Peter

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis

Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the Navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.

Oher, Michael

I Beat the Odds

Michael Oher, the subject of the 2009 film "The Blind Side," recounts how he defied the odds, escaped from the inner-city Memphis ghetto, found a family to take him in, and used his football skills to build a better life for himself.

Reef, Catherine

Jane Austen: A Life Revealed

A highly readable biography of Jane Austen which provides an overview of her personal life, writings, and influence on world literature.

Robbins, Alexandra

The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids

Explains how high schools have become a stressful environment where students are defined not by their character or hunger for knowledge, but by often arbitrary scores and statistics, and recounts the real-life experiences of a group of teens struggling to fit in and be the best.

Sheinkin, Steve

The Notorious Benedict Arnold

Most people know that Benedict Arnold was America's first, most notorious traitor. Few know that he was also one of its greatest war heroes. The real Arnold was reckless, heroic and driven. Packed with first person accounts, battle scenes, and surprising twists...

Skloot, Rebecca

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Examines the experiences of the children and husband of Henrietta Lacks, who, twenty years after her death from cervical cancer in 1951, learned doctors and researchers took cells from her cervix without consent which were used to create the immortal cell line known as the HeLa cell. The book provides an overview of Henrietta's life and explores issues of bioethics and experimentation on African-Americans.

Swanson, James L.

Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer

Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of the mood of the nation just after the Civil War and the lifestyle and motives of John Wilkes Booth.

Walls, Jeannette

The Glass Castle

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.

Additional Foran Book Chat Titles:

Picoult, Jodi

**Nineteen Minutes*

In this emotionally charged novel, Jodi Picoult delves beneath the surface of a small town to explore what it means to be different in our society. In Sterling, New Hampshire, 17-year-old high school student Peter Houghton has endured years of verbal and physical abuse at the hands of classmates. One final incident of bullying sends Peter over the edge and leads him to commit an act of violence that forever changes the lives of Sterling's residents.

Meyer, Stephanie

Twilight

Isabella Swan moves to gloomy Forks to live with her father. As she starts her junior year in high school she becomes fascinated by Edward Cullen who holds a dark secret which is only known by his family.

Asher, Jay

**Thirteen Reasons Why*

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker--his classmate and crush--who committed suicide two weeks earlier. On tape, Hannah explains that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out how he made the list. Through Hannah and Clay's dual narratives, debut author Jay Asher weaves an intricate and heartrending story of confusion and desperation that will deeply affect teen readers.

Collins, Suzanne

The Hunger Games

Sixteen year old Katniss Everdeen volunteers in her younger sister's place to enter the games, and is forced to rely upon her sharp instincts as well as the mentorship of drunken former victor Haymitch Abernathy when she's pitted against highly-trained Tributes who have prepared for these Games their entire lives. If she's ever to return home to District 12, Katniss must make impossible choices in the arena that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.

* indicates a title with mature content