

**HAVERHILL HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST 2009
Entering Sophomore Year**

Listed below are the summer reading selections for students entering Grade 10 at Haverhill High School. Choose at least one book and have it read by the start of the school year. An assignment will be given during the first two weeks of school IN ALL ENGLISH CLASSES and this score will be averaged with your first quarter grade. Books can be found at the Haverhill Public Library or at local bookstores. Note: Students may read any title specifically recommended by the librarian in place of one on the list. Select titles are also available in a variety of audio formats for readers who would like to listen to the story while they read.

FICTION:

How I Live Now

Meg Rosoff

This riveting novel paints a frighteningly realistic picture of a world war breaking out in the 21st century. Told from the point of view of 15-year-old Manhattan native Daisy, the novel follows her arrival and her stay with cousins on a remote farm in England. Soon after Daisy settles into their farmhouse, her Aunt Penn becomes stranded in Oslo and terrorists invade and occupy England. Daisy's candid, intelligent narrative draws readers into her very private world, which appears almost utopian at first with no adult supervision

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things

Carolyn Mackler

Sophomore Virginia Shreves lives in Manhattan and attends a prestigious private school. She lives by her Fat Girl Code of Conduct. She has a budding romance with Froggy the Fourth, but she doesn't want his wandering hands to feel her fat. Her baggy clothing helps her to "hide." Her mother, Dr. Phyllis Shreves, is an adolescent psychologist obsessed with her imperfect daughter's weight, and her father is rarely around. Told through first-person narrative, journal entries, and e-mail, Virginia's story will interest readers who are looking for one more book with teen angst, a bit of romance, and a kid who is a bit like them or their friends.

A Great and Terrible Beauty

Libba Bray

A new Gothic tale of a Victorian girls school reveals a terrible secret. At 16, Gemma must leave the only home she's known—colonial India—when her mother kills herself under bizarre circumstances and Gemma is both confused and intrigued by the details. Although she longed to see London while her family lived abroad, Gemma is disappointed to find that she's being packed off to finishing school there. At school, she stands up to the very circle of girls who seem to hold the most power, while also dealing with weird hallucinations and the furtive presence of the young man she first saw in Bombay on the day of her mother's death. The school and its administration hold fast to a secret about the class of 1871, which passed through it nearly a quarter century before Gemma's stay.

House of the Scorpion

Nancy Farmer

Fields of white opium poppies stretch away over the hills, and uniformed workers bend over the rows, harvesting the juice. This is the empire of Matteo Alacran, a feudal drug lord in the country of Opium, which lies between the United States and Aztlan, formerly Mexico. Field work and menial tasks are done by "eejits," humans in whose brains computer chips have been installed to insure docility. Alacran, or El Patron, has lived 140 years with the help of transplants from a series of clones, a common practice among rich men in this world. The intelligence of clones is usually destroyed at birth, but Matt, the latest of Alacran's doubles, has been spared because he belongs to El Patron.

Rats Saw God

Rob Thomas

In order to pass English and graduate high school, Steve York has to complete a 100-page paper for his guidance counselor. Steve decides to write about his sophomore and junior years examining what turned this National Merit Scholar into a junkie who is barely graduating. He writes about life with his father, a famous astronaut, his friends in the Dadaist art study group, and his first love who ultimately broke his heart.

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Slam!**Walter Dean Myers**

17-year-old Greg Harris tells of the year in which he transfers to a magnet school for the arts, a more academically challenging, mostly white school. After being the hot shot star of his Harlem high school team, he has to learn to fit in and be a team player at his new school. He may not be able to do anything about the rest of his life--his relationships with his family and friends, his grandmother's illness, his scholastic difficulties, or what goes on in his Harlem neighborhood--but when he gets onto the basketball court, "Slam" feels in control.

Fat Kid Rules the World**KL Going**

Troy Billings is a 300-pound high school senior contemplating suicide when he meets Curt MacCrae, a homeless teenage musical genius who decides that Troy is just the drummer he's looking for to start a new band. Lillard captures Troy's joy in being part of the punk crowd, as well as his confusion over Curt's apparent drug addiction.

My Sister's Bones**Cathi Hanauer**

Against a backdrop of malls and emerald-carpet lawns, Cassie Weinstein is slowly killing herself, and there seems to be nothing her younger sister Billie can do to stop her. At 15, Billie Weinstein, unlike her accomplished 18-year-old sister Cassie, is a rebel--and a charming mess. Her schoolwork is only adequate in a family that expects straight A's, she harbors an inappropriate crush on a local gas-station attendant called Dom, and her beloved best friend Tiffany is the school hood. When Cassie comes home for Christmas weighing 95 pounds and refusing to eat, chaos erupts.

Empire Falls**Richard Russo**

Richard Russo transforms the story of a Maine mill town into an unforgettable exploration of the human condition. Russo's characters are interesting and reflect the struggles of blue collar working families in a town that is in decline due to a changing economy and a manipulative, self-important property owner. By turns funny, poignant, satiric, and shocking, Empire Falls captures humanity at its best and its worst.

Dawn**Elie Wiesel**

Elisha is a young Holocaust survivor, and an Israeli freedom fighter in British-controlled Palestine; John Dawson is the captured English officer he will murder at dawn in retribution for the British execution of a fellow freedom fighter. The night-long wait for morning and death provides Dawn, Elie Wiesel's ever timely novel, with its harrowingly taut, hour-by-hour narrative. Caught between the manifold horrors of the past and the troubling dilemmas of the present, Elisha wrestles with guilt, ghosts, and ultimately God as he waits for the appointed hour and his act of assassination.

NON FICTION:***Zlata's Diary*****Zlata Filipovic**

From September 1991 through October 1993, young Zlata Filipovic kept a diary. When she began it, she was 11 years old, concerned mostly with friends, school, piano lessons, MTV, and Madonna. As the diary ends, she has become used to constant bombing and snipers; severe shortages of food, water, and gas; and the end of a privileged adolescence in her native Sarajevo. Zlata has been described as the new Anne Frank.

Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big**Jose Canseco**

Jose Canseco's *Juiced* promises to expose not only the rampant use of performance-enhancing substances in baseball (with steroids replacing the amphetamines of Bouton's day), but the painfully human flaws of its heroes as well. A steroid devotee since the age of 20, Canseco goes beyond admitting his own usage to claim that with the tacit approval of the league's powers-that-be he acted as baseball's ambassador of steroids and is therefore indirectly responsible for "saving" the game.

Woodsong**Gary Paulsen**

This autobiographical book uses spare but vivid language about a man who thought, because he was a hunter and a trapper that he knew about the outdoors. Instead, he discovered he knew very little until he opened himself to the realities of predators and prey, and to the lessons taught to him by the animals he encountered and the sled dogs he trained and raced.