

## Freshman Summer Book List -- 2006

### SCIENCE & MATH

#### NON-FICTION

***E=mc<sup>2</sup>: a Biography of the World's Most Famous Equation*, David Bodanis**

Bodanis rescues the masses from ignorance in an entertaining story about Einstein's formulation of the equation in 1905 and its association ever after with relativity and nuclear energy. – *Booklist*

***The Science of Star Wars*, Jeanne Cavelos**

A former NASA astrophysicist examines the scientific possibility of the space travel, aliens, and robots that are part of the fantastical world of "Star Wars." - *Publisher*

***Universe in a Nutshell*, Stephen Hawking**

The bestselling mathematician and physicist describes scientists' latest theories about the origin, structure, and evolution of the universe in a lavishly illustrated text. – *Library Journal*

***Mad about Physics: Brain Twisters, Paradoxes, and Curiosities*, Christopher Jargodzki**

This entertaining book is sure to appeal to anyone with an interest in what makes the world work the way it does. - *Booklist*

***The Story of Mathematics*, Richard Mankiewicz**

Using plenty of illustrations and interesting asides, this is an entertaining history of mathematics. – *Best Books for High School Readers*

***Count Down: Six Kids Vie for Glory at the World's Toughest Math Competition*, Steve Olson**

Olson has taken on an always-difficult task: discussing math in a manner interesting and understandable. *School Library Journal*

***The Code Book: How to Make It, Break It, Hack It, Crack It*, Simon Singh**

It's known as the science of secrecy: cryptography, the encoding and decoding of private information. Singh follows the evolution of secret writing with a clarity that lets the reader enjoy the captivating story while easily absorbing the details of cryptography. - *Publisher*

### FICTION

***Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, Mark Haddon**

Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. – *Novelist*

### HUMANITIES

#### FICTION

***The Life of Pi*, Yann Martel**

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain. Winner of the Booker Prize. - *Novelist*

***The Icarus Girl*, Helen Oyemi**

Full of Nigerian mythology, poetry and mystery, this story reveals a young girl living a rich and complex life between two cultures. – *William Brown, Bay School Humanities Teacher*

**Haroun and the Sea of Stories, Salman Rushdie**

Vowing to return to his father--the city storyteller--his lost gift of speech, Haroun begins a quest that introduces him to a mad bus driver, the Shadow Warriors, and the land of darkness. – *Novelist*

**Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee**

An authentic 18th-century Chinese detective novel in which three interlocked cases are solved. - *Publisher*

**Purple Hibiscus, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Set in modern Nigeria, this story follows a fifteen-year old girl who goes to live with her aunt during a military coup in her country. It is told through Kambil's eyes and gives us a glimpse of an internationally important country's recent history and culture. – *William Brown, Bay School Humanities Teacher*

**Before We Were Free, Julia Alvarez**

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo. - *Publisher*

**The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child, Francisco Jiménez**

These short stories detail a migrant family's daily life and the struggles they endure to build an existence on the small opportunities they are given. - *Novelist*

**Nectar in a Sieve, Kamala Markandaya**

This beautiful and eloquent story tells of a simple peasant woman in a primitive village in India whose whole life was a gallant and persistent battle to care for those she loved. - *Publisher*

**NON-FICTION**

**Persepolis: the Story of a Childhood, Marjane Satrapi**

An autobiography told in black and white drawings about Marjane's life in Iran from the age of 10, when the Islamic revolution of 1979 reintroduced a religious state, through the age of 14 when the Iran-Iraq war forced her parents to send her to Europe for safety. – *School Library Journal*

**Sophomore Summer Reading List -- 2006**

**SCIENCE & MATH**

**NON-FICTION**

**How to Lie with Statistics, Darrell Huff**

A now-classic account of how numbers can be manipulated to produce desired results. – *Best Books for High School Readers*

**Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History, Penny LeCouteur and Jay Burreson**

Showing how a change as small as the position of an atom can lead to enormous differences in the properties of a substance, the authors reveal the astonishing chemical connections among seemingly unrelated events. - *Publisher*

**The Story of Mathematics, Richard Mankiewicz**

Using plenty of illustrations and interesting asides, this is an entertaining history of mathematics. – *Best Books for High School Readers*

**A Beautiful Mind: The Life of Mathematical Genius and Nobel Laureate John Nash, Sylvia Nasar**

In a masterful blend of biography and science writing, Nasar traces John Forbes Nash, Jr.'s rise to the heights of intellectual achievement and his harrowing descent from "eccentricity" to insanity. - *Publisher*

***The Botany of Desire: a Plant's-Eye View of the World, Michael Pollan***

A fascinating and engaging look at the true nature of domestication. - *Amazon*

***The Hot Zone: a Terrifying True Story, Richard Preston***

The dramatic and chilling story of an Ebola virus outbreak in a suburban Washington, D.C. laboratory, with descriptions of frightening historical epidemics of rare and lethal viruses. - *Amazon*

***Fermat's Enigma: The Epic Quest to Solve the World's Greatest Mathematical Problem, Simon Singh*** –

A mesmerizing tale of heartbreak and mastery, and one that will forever change the reader's feelings about mathematics. - *Publisher*

## HUMANITIES

### NON-FICTION

***A Short History of Myth, Karen Armstrong***

A succinct look at development of human stories connected to our most basic human hopes and fears. – *William Brown, Bay Humanities Teacher*

### FICTION

***Regeneration, Pat Barker***

Set in a British military hospital during WWI, this novel blends fact and fiction, drawing its two protagonists from the pages of history. The author of *Union Street* (made into the film *Stanley and Iris*) portrays over-whelmed men who try to come to terms with their outrage of a futile war. – *Publisher*

***One of Ours, Willa Cather***

Claude is an idealist without an ideal to cling to. It is only when his country enters the First World War that Claude finds what he has been searching for all his life. – *William Brown, Bay Humanities Teacher*

***Chronicle of a Blood Merchant, Yu Hua***

This internationally acclaimed novel by one of the mainland's most important contemporary writers provides an unflinching portrait of life under Chairman Mao. – *Publisher*

***All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque***

An important book about World War I, which broke the mould, touched large numbers of readers and provoked strong criticism from Nazi Germany. – *William Brown, Bay Humanities Teacher*

***The Bridge of San Luis Rey, Thornton Wilder***

"On Friday afternoon, July the twentieth, 1714, the finest bridge in all Peru broke and precipitated five travelers into the gulf below." A local Franciscan Friar investigates the lives of these five people and finds a surprising number of human connections among their stories. – *William Brown, Bay Humanities Teacher*

## LANGUAGE & CULTURE

### FICTION

***Bless Me Ultima, Rudolfo Anaya***

This modern classic novel is about growing up Chicano in southeastern New Mexico during the 1940's. - *Best Books for High School Readers*

**Tortilla Curtain, T.C. Boyle**

A profound and tragic tale of two couples in Southern California; one a pair of wealthy suburbanites, the other illegal immigrants from Mexico. The novel provokes question after question concerning immigration, unemployment, discrimination, and social responsibility in a nonjudgmental fashion, depicting the vast inequity in these parallel existences. - *Publisher's Weekly* and *Booklist*

**The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho**

The noted Brazilian novelist spins a fable about following one's dreams, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens. - *Novelist*

**Madame Bovary, Gustave Flaubert**

Flaubert's story of a shallow, deluded, unfaithful, but consistently compelling woman living in the provinces of nineteenth-century France, Gustave Flaubert invented not only the modern novel but also a modern attitude toward human character and human experience that remains with us to this day. - *Publisher*

**The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini**

This current bestseller tells the story of a childhood friendship against the backdrop of Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy. - *Publisher*

**Red Sorghum: a Novel of China, Yan Mo**

A novel of family, myth, and memory set during the fratricidal barbarity of 1930s China follows the Chinese as they battle the Japanese and each other. - *Novelist*

## Junior Summer Reading List -- 2006

### SCIENCE & MATH

#### NON-FICTION

***A Natural History of the Senses, Diane Ackerman***

A grand tour of the realm of the senses including conversations with an iceberg in Antarctica and a professional nose in New York, along with dissertations on kisses and tattoos, sadistic cuisine and the music played by the planet Earth. – *Publisher*

***The Discovery of Insulin, Michael Bliss***

The definitive history of the most significant and controversial medical events. - *Publisher*

***The Selfish Gene, Richard Dawkins***

A brilliant reformulation of the theory of natural selection that helped change the whole nature of the study of social biology. – *Publisher*

***Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies, Jared Diamond***

Diamond offers a convincing explanation of the way the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history. – *Publisher*

***Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters, Matt Ridley***

An engrossing account of the genetic history of our species. . . . This book will be particularly relevant to lay readers, providing insight into how far we have come and where we are heading in the understanding of our genetic heritage. – *Library Journal*

***The Lady Tasting Tea: How Statistics Revolutionized Science in the Twentieth Century, David Salsburg***

At a summer tea party in Cambridge, England, a guest states that tea poured into milk tastes different from milk poured into tea. Her notion is shouted down by the scientific minds of the group. But one man, Ronald Fisher, proposes to scientifically test the hypothesis. - *Publisher*

***The Music of the Primes: Searching to Solve the Greatest Mystery in Mathematics, Marcus du Sautoy***

Reveals the extraordinary history behind the holy grail of mathematics and the ongoing quest to capture it. – *Publisher*

#### FICTION

***Contact: a novel, Carl Sagan***

After years of scanning the galaxy for signs of somebody or something else, this team believes they've found a message from an intelligent source, and they travel deep into space to meet it. Who or what is out there? – *Novelist*

### U.S. HISTORY (must choose one)

#### NON-FICTION

***Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation, Joseph Ellis***

An illuminating study of the intertwined lives of the founders of the American republic--John Adams, Aaron Burr, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington. – *Publisher*

***Sons of Mississippi: A Story of Race and Its Legacy, Paul Hendrickson***

Former Washington Post journalist Hendrickson tells the story of the seven white Mississippi sheriffs shown admiring a billy club in a famed 1962 photograph. – *Library Journal*

**Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate over Science and Religion, Edward J. Larson**

Pairing archival material with the author's keen legal and historical analysis, this book provides a fresh interpretation of this pivotal event in American history. – *Publisher*

**Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America, Erik Larson**

Bringing Chicago circa 1893 to vivid life, Erik Larson's spellbinding bestseller intertwines the true tale of two men--the brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair, striving to secure America's place in the world; and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death. – *Publisher*

**Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression, Studs Terkel**

This book is a gold mine of information that vividly illustrates the Depression's effect on those who lived through it. – *Publisher*

## FICTION

**The Things They Carried: A Work of Fiction, Tim O'Brien**

With the creative verve of the greatest fiction and the intimacy of a searing autobiography, this book is a testament to the men who risked their lives in the Vietnam War. – *Publisher*

**American Pastoral, Philip Roth**

A wonderfully detailed examination of post-WWII America and the generation clash that rocked the Sixties. *Craig Miller, Bay U.S. History Teacher*

**Killer Angels, Michael Shaara**

A vivid, fast-moving novel that takes place during the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. – *Best Books for High School Readers*

**The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck**

This classic American novel tells of the odyssey of the Joad family from windswept Oklahoma to California. *Best Books for High School Readers*

## ENGLISH ELECTIVES

### NON-FICTION

**Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare, Stephen Greenblatt**

Interweaves a searching account of Elizabethan England with a vivid narrative of the playwright's life. – *Publisher*

**Assembling California, John McPhee**

An unsettling look at California's geography from the prolific science writer.

**Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux, John G. Neihardt**

The story of the Lakota visionary and healer Nicholas Black Elk and his people during the end of the nineteenth century. – *Publisher*

**Black Boy: American Hunger a Record of Childhood and Youth, Richard Wright**

Wright's unforgettable and eloquent autobiography of growing up in the Jim Crow South offers an unsurpassed portrait of the struggles against the ingrained racism and poverty faced by African Americans. – *Publisher*

## FICTION

### ***The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald***

An exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s. - *Publisher*

### ***Giants in the Earth: A Saga of the Prairie, O.E. Rolvaag***

The classic story of a Norwegian pioneer family's struggles with the land and the elements of the Dakota Territory as they try to make a new life in America. - *Publisher*

### ***Frankenstein, Mary Shelley***

A monster assembled by a scientist from parts of dead bodies develops a mind of his own as he learns to loathe himself and hate his creator. – *Novelist*

### ***Johnny Got His Gun, Dalton Trumbo***

Experiences of a severely disabled World War I veteran which relates the horrors of war. - *Publisher*

## PLAYS (two plays = one book)

### ***Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller***

The tragedy of a typical American—a salesman who at the age of sixty-three is faced with what he cannot face; defeat and disillusionment. - *Publisher*

### ***All My Sons, Arthur Miller***

Winner of the Drama Critics' Award for Best New Play in 1947, "All My Son" established Arthur Miller as a leading voice in the American theater, and introduced themes that thread through Miller's work as a whole: the relationships between fathers and sons and the conflict between business and personal ethics. - *Publisher*

## HISTORY ELECTIVES/CURRENT EVENTS

### ***China Inc.: How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World, Ted C. Fishman***

A provocative, timely, and essential work that details China's growing dominance as an industrial superpower. - *Publisher*

### ***From Beirut to Jerusalem, Thomas Friedman***

Winner of the 1989 National Book Award for nonfiction, this extraordinary bestseller is still the most incisive, thought-provoking book ever written about the Middle East. – *Publisher*

### ***Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life, Queen Noor***

The story of a young American woman who became wife and partner to an Arab monarch. Queen Noor of Jordan provides a compelling portrait of her late husband King Hussein and his lifelong effort to bring peace to his war torn region. – *Publisher*

### ***The Devil's Highway: A True Story, Luis Alberto Urrea***

"In 2001, 26 men crossed the Mexican border, traveling along Arizona's deadly 'Devil's Highway'; fewer than half came out alive." – *Publisher*

## LANGUAGES & CULTURES

## NON FICTION

### ***Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China, Jung Chang***

Chang recounts the evocative, unsettling, and insistently gripping story of how three generations of women in her family fared in the political maelstrom of China during the 20th century. - *Publisher*

**Red China Blues: My Long March from Mao to Now, Jan Wong**

A memoir of Wong's rocky six-year romance with Maoism that began to sour as she became aware of the harsh realities of Chinese communism and led to her eventual repatriation to the West. – *Publisher*

**FICTION**

**Tortilla Curtain, T.C. Boyle**

A profound and tragic tale of two couples in Southern California; one a pair of wealthy suburbanites, the other illegal immigrants from Mexico. The novel provokes question after question concerning immigration, unemployment, discrimination, and social responsibility in a nonjudgmental fashion, depicting the vast inequity in these parallel existences. - *Publisher's Weekly* and *Booklist*

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