Summer Reading List 2018
Going Into 10th Grade

Please select and read TWO from the following list by the first day of school:

Catalyst by Anderson, Laurie Halse  
Lexile 580
Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

The Future of Us by Asher, Jay and Carolyn Mackler  
Lexile 600
Emma gets her first computer and an America Online CD-ROM in 1996, and when her best friend Josh visits and they log on, they discover themselves on Facebook fifteen years in the future.

Tyrell by Booth, Coe  
Lexile 780
Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he does not end up in jail like his father.

The Maze Runner by Dashner, James  
Lexile 770
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.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Haddon, Mark  
Lexile 1180
Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, 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.

Why We Broke Up by Handler, Daniel  
Lexile 980
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.

Crank by Hopkins, Ellen  
Lexile NP
A novel told in poetry. Kristina Georgia Snow's life is turned upside-down, when she visits her absentee father, gets turned on to the drug "crank", becomes addicted, and is led down a desperate path that threatens her mind, soul, and her life.

The Knife of Never Letting Go by Ness, Patrick  
Lexile 860
Settlers on Todd’s planet are infected with a virus that kills all the women and causes survivors to hear the thoughts of men and animals. This coming-of-age survival story reveals the psychological impact of being unable to shut out other people’s thoughts or to hide one’s own thoughts. Series

The Housekeeper and the Professor. Translated from the Japanese by Stephen Snyder. By Ogawa, Yoko  
Lexile 940
A once brilliant math professor suffers the effects of a head trauma that erases his short term memory every eighty minutes, and he must repeatedly be re-introduced to his housekeeper. However, past equations in the professor's mind enable him to discover surprising connections.
Delirium by Oliver, Lauren  
Lexile 920

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

Swan: Poems and Prose Poems by Oliver, Mary  
Lexile NP

Mary Oliver’s adoration and awe of nature shines through in this slim collection of beautiful poetry evocative of the beauty, brutality, and mysteries found in the natural world. Readers in need of an uplifting thought to reflect upon, as well as nature lovers, will appreciate the wisdom in these simple, sensuous poems.

As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth by Perkins, Lynne Rae  
Lexile NP

In a hilarious story of the ultimate "bad day," fifteen-year-old Ry is left behind when he jumps off the stalled train taking him to summer camp. It is downhill from there until he meets Del. Worried about his grandfather and unable to contact his parents, Ry, with Del's help, sets off on the misadventure of a lifetime that will keep you laughing all the way.

Life As We Knew It by Pfeffer, Susan Beth  
Lexile 770

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto by Pollan, Michael  
Lexile NP

The author challenges current approaches to healthy eating, arguing that the real food consumed by past generations is being replaced with commercialized, scientifically altered foods that offer no health benefits and may cause serious damage.

True Grit by Portis, Charles  
Lexile 800

With a supersized ration of audacity and her papa's pistol tied to her saddle horn, fourteen-year-old Mattie Ross sets out to avenge her father's murder.

Nation by Pratchett, Terry  
Lexile 790

Mau is caught in the tidal wave that destroyed his island, and Daphne is her ship’s only survivor of that tsunami. Together on the devastated island, they form a new nation. Michael L. Printz Honor Award 2009

The Indigo Notebook by Resau, Laura  
Lexile 780

Zeeta has lived in a different country every year with her flighty mother. Zeeta longs for a boring suburban life, but then she meets Wendell.

Divergent by Roth, Veronica  
Lexile 700

In post-apocalyptic Chicago, society is divided into five factions -- Amity, Candor, Dauntless, Erudite, and Abnegation -- in order to avoid future wars and preserve peace. Each year, the newly turned sixteen-year-olds are called to select and devote the rest of their lives to a faction. The day of choosing will change Beatrice’s life forever . . . for once you choose, you can never go back. Series
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*The Forest of Hands and Teeth* by Ryan, Carrie  
Lexile 900

Through twists and turns of fate, orphaned Mary seeks knowledge of life, love, and especially what lies beyond her walled village and the surrounding forest, where dwell the Unconsecrated, aggressive flesh-eating people who were once dead.

*The Catcher in the Rye* by Salinger, J. D.  
Lexile 790

Holden Caulfield is an alienated, disillusioned youth who drops out of school and spends three days and nights in New York City on a quest for self-discovery.

*Revolver* by Sedgwick, Marcus  
Lexile 890

Set in 1910 just north of the Arctic Circle, the novel opens with fourteen-year-old Sig sitting alone in an isolated cabin with his dead father when a one-thumbed, vengeful man arrives, demanding stolen gold he claims he is owed by Sig’s father. Michael L. Printz Honor Award 2011

*Bruiser* by Shusterman, Neal  
Lexile 820

Bruiser was the guy nobody knew – or wanted to know. Then Brontë includes him in her group of friends and unusual things start to happen.

*The Septembers of Shiraz* by Sofer, Dalia  
Lexile NP

Following the 1981 revolution against the Shah of Iran, Isaac Amin, a Jewish gem dealer, is imprisoned because of his religion and personal wealth. Members of his family are forced to wrestle with the radical changes forced upon them.

*The Wedding* by Sparks, Nicholas  
Lexile 930

Wilson Lewis, forced to admit that the romance has gone out of his marriage after thirty years, and realizing his responsibility for that loss, embarks on a mission to make his wife fall in love with him all over again.

*Cannery Row* by Steinbeck, John  
Lexile 930

The antics of Steinbeck’s down-at-heel misfit characters bring mirth and sensitivity to a rollicking good read.

*Shiver* by Stiefvater, Maggie  
Lexile 740

Beautifully written from alternating points-of-view of star-crossed lovers Grace and Sam, this paranormal romance will do for werewolves what *Twilight* did for vampires. Series

*The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher: A Shocking Murder and the Undoing of a Great Victorian Detective* by Summerscale, Kate  
Lexile NP

Recounts the events surrounding the 1830 murder of three-year-old Saville Kent and explores the police investigation into the crime. Family members became prime suspects and local residents began to doubt the efficiency of the lead investigator.

*The Dragons of Babel* by Swanwick, Michael  
Lexile 820

Will, a half-mortal elf, is forced to be the lieutenant of an evil war-dragon. Will outwits the dragon and escapes to Babel, a post-industrialized faerie city, but finds the dragon lives on in his brain. Alex Award 2009
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*The Arrival* by Tan, Shaun
Lexile NP

A man leaves his troubled homeland and travels to an unfamiliar place where he makes a new life and sends for his family. This Australian award-winning wordless book’s sepia drawings look like surrealistic snapshots, poignanty expressing the timeless and universal courage of immigrants.

*The New Policeman* by Thompson, Kate
Lexile 730

Fifteen-year-old musician J.J. Liddy leaves his small, Irish town and travels to the land of the fairies to search for time so he can give it to his busy mother, but when he gets there, he discovers that the inhabitants are in trouble and learns about his family's secret history.

*Nothing Comes Easy* by Tittle, Y. A. with Kristine Setting Clark
Lexile NP

Experience the early hard-hitting, blood-spilling days of the NFL before fancy helmets and a lot of protective padding were used. This autobiography of Yelberton Abraham Tittle, who grew up during the Depression in Marshall, Texas, is a history of the NFL, including game records and statistics.

*The Running Dream* by Van Draanen, Wendelin
Lexile 650

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.

*Slaughterhouse-Five, or, The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death* by Vonnegut, Kurt
Lexile 850

After surviving the bombing of Dresden in World War II, Billy Pilgrim returns to civilian life and has a successful career until he is kidnapped by aliens and displayed in a zoo on the planet of Tralfamadore.

*Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland* by Walker, Sally M
Lexile 1140

Walker provides a detailed and illustrated account of an archaeological dig in Jamestown. The search for human remains and materials from colonial Maryland is revealed layer by fascinating layer.

*Variant* by Wells, Robison
Lexile NP

Benson Fisher hopes for a brighter future after being accepted to Maxfield Academy. Shortly after arriving, he realizes that the school is more like a prison because it is run by teens of various warring factions. No one ever escapes, but they do disappear.

*Such a Pretty Girl* by Wiess, Laura
Lexile 780

Meredith’s father, who was sent to jail for molesting her, has just been released from prison, and her oblivious mother wants them to become a family again. Meredith, a victim turned heroine, tries to save herself and other young people from her predatory father.

*Our Town: A Play in Three Acts* by Wilder, Thornton
Lexile NP

With the well-earned reputation of an American classic, this play brings themes of growing up, love, marriage, and death to the stage and portrays the dignity of the human spirit through life in Grover’s Corner.
Jumped by Williams-Garcia, Rita  
Lexile 600

Trina has unknowingly insulted the unstable Dominique in the hall, and she is in danger of being jumped after school. Leticia knows what is going on, but she does not want to get involved by telling anyone.

Robopocalypse by Wilson, Daniel H  
Lexile 730

An artificial intelligence program has taken over the world, uniting all the computer programs residing in everything from dolls and toys to domestic service robots, airplanes, and military weapons. Its aim is to destroy all human life . . . and the robots are winning. Alex Award 2012

Native Son by Wright, Richard  
Lexile 700

A young African American man is trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, finding release only in acts of violence.