Summer Reading List 2018
Going Into 12th Grade

*Deception Point* by Brown, Dan  
Lexile 1000

Intelligence analyst Rachel Sexton is thrust into a life-or-death situation when she travels to the Arctic to investigate the discovery of a meteorite that might prove the existence of extraterrestrials, and finds instead evidence of trickery.

*Ready Player One* by Cline, Ernest  
Lexile 990

In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like most of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the utopian virtual world of the OASIS, but when Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands in order to claim a prize of massive fortune.

*The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon* by Grann, David  
Lexile NP

In 1925, Percy Fawcett, eccentric member of the Royal Geographical Society, sets out to find the treasure of El Dorado deep in the Amazon jungle where he mysteriously disappears. This story contains fascinating facts of Fawcett’s quest and tells of the attempts of explorers through the years who have returned to the Amazon to solve the mystery of his disappearance and discover the elusive treasure.

*Paper Towns* by Green, John  
Lexile 850

Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

*The Magicians* by Grossman, Lev  
Lexile 1100

High school senior Quentin Coldwater's real world never quite measures up to Fillory, the enchanted land from his favorite fantasy novels. Can an education at the mysterious Brakebills College for Magic change his outlook?

*Water for Elephants: A Novel* by Gruen, Sara  
Lexile 730

Jacob Jankowski, a penniless orphan forced to drop out of veterinary school during the Great Depression, joins a traveling circus. He forges a bond with Rosie the elephant and Marlena, the beautiful star of an equestrian act, whose husband is a handsome circus boss with a violent temper. Alex Award 2007

*Same Kind of Different as Me* by Hall, Ron, and Denver Moore, with Lynn Vincent  
Lexile NP

In this true story, an art dealer and a homeless man are brought together in a soup kitchen and learn life lessons from each other.

*The Grand Design* by Hawking, Stephen and Leonard Mlodinow  
Lexile NP

The authors present a new discussion of the laws of the universe and the nature of reality. The journey includes thoughts of the great philosophers and scientists over the centuries as well as questions such as “Are the laws of nature suspended when miracles occur?” The well-placed, clever cartoons provide balance to the weighty discussions.

*Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Hillenbrand, Laura  
Lexile NP

This biography chronicles the life of World War II bombardier Louis Zamperini from his wild youth to becoming a world-class runner in the 1936 Olympic Games to his enlistment in the U.S. Air Forces where he must survive for forty-seven days in the Pacific Ocean when his plane goes down.
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_Identical_ by Hopkins, Ellen  
Lexile 590

Identical twins Kaeleigh and Raeanne keep dark secrets. Their politician mother is emotionally remote, and their district court judge father is abusive. This novel in verse alternates first person descriptions of abuse, alcoholism, bulimia, drugs and mental illness. Be ready for a revelation at the end of this disturbing and insightful book.

_A Thousand Splendid Suns_ by Hosseini, Khaled  
Lexile 830

Mariam and Laila, both married to Rasheed, form an uneasy alliance so that they and their children survive despite horrific circumstances. The story depicts Afghanistan from a woman’s point of view during three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war, and Taliban tyranny.

_Never Let Me Go_ by Ishiguro, Kazuo  
Lexile 930

A dark secret lurks behind the nurturing façade of Hailsham, a private school in the English countryside where Kathy, now thirty-one years old, lived as a child. Alex Award 2006

_The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements_ by Kean, Sam  
Lexile 1300

Sam Kean presents the rationale behind the organization of the periodic table of the elements as well as many interesting anecdotes about the elements and the scientists who discovered them.

_The Heretic’s Daughter_ by Kent, Kathleen  
Lexile NP

Amid the painful details of jail and persecution, deep-seated suspicion and familial betrayal, ten-year-old Sarah Carrier’s world is turned upside down when her family becomes a target of Salem’s witchcraft hysteria.

_The Stand_ by King, Stephen  
Lexile 900

After an accident at an army laboratory lets loose a virus that kills nearly the entire U.S., the survivors cross vast, horrifying wastelands to band together in Colorado, and Las Vegas facing off to decide the fate of the humanity.

_Girl in Translation_ by Kwok, Jean  
Lexile 840

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, Kimberly quickly begins a secret double life -- exceptional schoolgirl by day, Chinatown sweatshop worker by night -- and she learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles. Alex Award 2011

_Unaccustomed Earth_ by Lahiri, Jhumpa  
Lexile 1090

As with her previous Pulitzer Prize-winning collection, _Interpreter of Maladies_, Lahiri’s short story magic lies in the warm-blooded richness with which she deftly renders each and every one of her characters, not to mention the ambiguity, joy, and grief that imbue the liminal spaces between those characters.

_In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler’s Berlin_ by Larson, Erik  
Lexile NP

Experience the rise of Hitler in this nonfiction thriller. It is 1933 Berlin and Hitler is in power when a new U.S. Ambassador, William E. Dodd, is installed. Dodd must find ways to deal with the regime, communicate his concerns to the State Department, and keep his family safe.
The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Lewis, Michael
Lexile 980
The development of the offensive left tackle position to protect a quarterback in the National Football League is presented in combination with the true story of Michael Oher, who lived in a Memphis ghetto until he was taken under the protection of a wealthy, loving family. Alex Award 2007

The Road by McCarthy, Cormac
Lexile 670
In a post-apocalyptic landscape, a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 2007

Atonement: A Novel by McEwan, Ian
Lexile NP
In the summer of 1935, the lives of three people are changed forever by a young girl’s scheming imagination.

Survival of the Sickest: A Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease by Moalem, Sharon
Lexile NP
With fascinating insights and cutting-edge research, the author looks at evolutionary history, epigenetics, and modern medical research to try to figure out why we developed as we did.

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Moore, Wes
Lexile 990
This book explores the fate of two African-American men with the same name living in the same city -- one becomes a Rhodes Scholar and the other a convicted murderer.

The Night Circus by Morgenstern, Erin
Lexile 950
The circus arrives without warning, and what looks like clever illusions are actually magic. The two principal illusionists, Celia and Marco, have unknowingly been involved in a deadly contest created by their mentors. When they fall in love, it complicates the circus and their teachers’ plans. Alex Award 2012

Beloved by Morrison, Toni
Lexile 870
The Nobel prize-winning author’s lyrical expression of the slave experience is built around Sethe, her memories of Sweet Home, and the ghost of her baby. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1988

The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey by Mosley, Walter
Lexile NP
Ptolemy Grey, an elderly man, falls further into his solitary existence and dementia, when his grandnephew -- his only real connection to the outside world -- dies in a drive-by shooting. When Robyn, his niece's lodger, helps him with his motivation and introduces him to a doctor who is touting an experimental drug that may give Ptolemy a temporary burst of clarity and energy, Ptolemy thinks of a way to leave a memorable legacy.

The Last Town on Earth by Mullen, Thomas
Lexile NP
Set during the twin catastrophes of WWI and the 1918 flu epidemic, this fiction title explores the risks of trading freedom for safety in a small milling town in Commonwealth, Washington. Mullen examines the parallels with our current fear of contagious viruses, obsession with foreign operatives, and repression of political dissent.
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Ashfall by Mullin, Mike  
Lexile 750

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

One Day by Nicholls, David  
Lexile NP

The single day that Dexter Mayhew and Emma Morley spend together in 1988, the day after college graduation in Edinburgh, makes a distinct impression on each of them and a relationship forms only after they part ways and are reunited once a year on the same day for twenty years.

Her Fearful Symmetry by Niffenegger, Audrey  
Lexile 690

Twenty-year-old twins Valentina and Julia Poole inherit their Aunt Elspeth Noblin's London apartment and travel from Chicago to England where they become caught up in the lives of their neighbors as well as the ghosts of the vast Highgate Cemetery next to the building.

The Tiger’s Wife by Obreht, Tea  
Lexile NP

The myth of an escaped tiger during the World War II bombing of the Balkans and Natalia’s search for details about her beloved grandfather’s death are woven together.

Lullaby by Palahniuk, Chuck  
Lexile 800

Reporter Carl Streator teams up with real estate broker Helen Hoover Boyle in an attempt to find and destroy all copies of the anthology "Poems and Rhymes Around the World," which contains a lullaby Streator believes has the power to kill when spoken or thought, and is apparently the cause of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

State of Wonder by Patchett, Ann  
Lexile NP

Anders Eckman, a friend and colleague, has mysteriously died while working on a ground-breaking miracle drug in a remote location in the Amazon rainforest, and Dr. Marina Singh is sent to take his place. The investigation of his death leads her on a gripping adventure that will have her questioning what is right and wrong and how far people are willing to go for science and discovery.

The Fencing Master by Pérez-Reverte, Arturo  
Lexile NP

Nineteenth-century fencing master, Don Jaime, finds himself drawn into a plot that includes seduction, politics, secret documents, and murder when he refuses to teach the beautiful and mysterious Dona Adela de Otero how to perform the “unstoppable thrust.”

Out Stealing Horses by Petterson, Per  
Lexile NP

Trond Sander, a Norwegian man nearing seventy in self-imposed exile, meets his only neighbor, who happens to be the younger brother of a friend with whom he spent a transformative summer, and remembers that season of 1948, when he learned secrets about his father's wartime activities.

Nineteen Minutes by Picoult, Jodi  
Lexile 890

The people of Sterling, New Hampshire are forever changed after a shooting at the high school leaves ten dead. The judge tries to remain unbiased, even though her daughter witnessed the events and was friends with the assailant.
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*My Abandonment* by Rock, Peter  
Lexile NP

Thirteen-year-old Caroline lives with her father “off the grid” in a makeshift structure in a Pacific Northwest forest. The forest seems to fulfill their basic needs and camouflages them from the rest of humanity, enabling them to become experts at being hidden. As events unfold, the world intrudes upon their solitude and what Caroline thought was real is not.

*Sarah’s Key* by Rosnay, Tatiana de  
Lexile 610

Location: Paris. Time: July 16, 1942. Sarah, a ten-year-old girl, is brutally arrested along with her family by the French police in the Vel’ d’Hiv’ roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment. Sixty years later, on the anniversary of the roundup, Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this dark episode and embarks on an investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and Sarah’s ordeal.

*Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin* by Sides, Hampton  
Lexile NP

The gripping true story of the events leading up to King's assassination and the massive FBI manhunt to find his killer, James Earl Ray.

*The Voice at 3:00 A.M.: Selected Late & New Poems* by Simic, Charles  
Lexile NP

These poems convey vivid and quirky imagery. From *Sunday Papers* to *Frightening Toys* to *Blood Orange*, the originality and sly humor of “everydayness” cheers the reader of this award-winning poet’s work.

*The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by Wroblewski, David  
Lexile 900

Edgar Sawtelle live on his parents’ farm helping raise a unique breed of dogs developed to embody the qualities of companionship and wisdom. The death of his father and his belief that his uncle had something to do with it, force him to flee with only three dogs. He struggles to survive until the need to confront his uncle leads him home again.

*The Angel’s Game* by Zafon, Carlos Ruiz  
Lexile 1030

Struggling author David Martin, upset over losing his and trying to find success, takes an assignment to write a book that the editor promises will make him immortal and is thrown into a web of long-buried secrets and madness.

*The Book Thief* by Zusak, Markus  
Lexile 730

Death, the narrator, relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.