

**The Scranton School District  
Summer Reading List  
2015-2016  
Scranton High School  
West Scranton High School**

All incoming **FRESHMEN and CURRENT SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, and SENIORS** to both Scranton High School and West Scranton High School are required to read **ONE WORK**. Students must choose their selection from the comprehensive list. There is a varied selection of works to allow students choices in topics, genres and readability.

Upon returning to school students will be assessed using a district, standardized assessment tool.

The summer reading assessments will count as **one exam grade for the first marking period, which cannot not be dropped or curved**.

Students entering the school district after the first day of school and before the beginning of the second quarter will have the entire first quarter to complete the reading and assessment of the work.

**Fiction:**

**After** by Efav, Amy. 350 p.

Devon Davenport is a straight-A student and prominent player on her school's soccer team, but when she is linked to an abandoned baby found in the trash she is accused of attempted murder.

**The Alchemist** by Coelho, Paulo. 177 p.

Tells the story of an Andalusian shepherd boy who follows his dream and meets an alchemist.

**Allegiant** by Roth, Veronica. 526 p.

Sequel to: *Insurgent*. "The faction-based society that Tris Prior once believed in is shattered--fractured by violence and power struggles and scarred by loss and betrayal. So when offered a chance to explore the world past the limits she's known, Tris is ready." -- Provided by publisher.

**All the Pretty Horses** by McCarthy, Cormic. 301 p.

John Grady Cole is too young to be given charge of the family ranch and is cut off from the only life he has ever imagined wanting. A novel about childhood passing, along with innocence and an American age, this is a love story, education in responsibility, revenge and survival.

**Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe** by Saenz, Benjamin Alire. 359 p.

Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

**The Bean Trees** by Kingsolver, Barbara. 232 p.

Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.

**Because I Am Furniture** by Chaltas, Thalia 352 p.

The youngest of three siblings, fourteen-year-old Anke feels both relieved and neglected that her father abuses her brother and sister but ignores her, but when she catches him with one of her friends, she finally becomes angry enough to take action.

**The Bell Jar** by Plath, Sylvia. 296 p.

Chronicles the mental breakdown of Esther Greenwood--a brilliant, beautiful, talented and successful young woman.

**The Berlin Boxing Club** by Sharenow, Robert. 404 p.

In 1936 Berlin, fourteen-year-old Karl Stern, considered Jewish despite a non-religious upbringing, learns to box from the legendary Max Schmeling while struggling with the realities of the Holocaust.

**Between Shades of Gray** by Sepetys, Ruta. 344 p.

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Story is based on the author's family.

**The Black Box: a novel** by Schumacher, Julie. 168p.

When her sixteen-year-old sister is hospitalized for depression and her parents want to keep it a secret, fourteen-year-old Elena tries to cope with her own anxiety and feelings of guilt that she is determined to conceal from outsiders.

**The Book Thief** by Zusak, Marcus. 552 p.

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death 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.

**Bound** by Napoli, Donna Jo. 186 p.

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.

**Brisingr** (3<sup>rd</sup> in *Inheritance series*) by Paolini, Christopher. 763 p.

Eragon tries to uphold the oath he made to save Katrina from King Galbatorix; but the Varden, elves, and dwarves continue to need his help in order to overcome the tyranny of the king.

**Bronx Masquerade** by Grimes, Nikki. 167 p.

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

**Catch 22** by Heller, Joseph. 568 p.

A bombardier, based in Italy during World War II, repeatedly tries to avoid flying bombing missions while his colonel tries to get him killed by demanding that he fly more and more missions.

**Catching Fire** (2<sup>nd</sup> in *The Hunger Games series*) by Collins, Suzanne. 391 p.

By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion.

**Chain Reaction** (3<sup>rd</sup> in *Perfect Chemistry series*) by Elkeles, Simone. 310 p.

When he returns to Illinois and the gang culture on the south side of Fairfield after six years in Colorado, high school senior Luis Fuentes, who dreams of becoming an astronaut, falls for a girl and enters a dark world after learning some disturbing news about his family.

**The Chocolate War** by Cormier, Robert. 263 p.

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

**The Chosen One** by Williams, Carol Lynch. 213 p.

In a polygamous cult in the desert, Kyra, not yet fourteen, sees being chosen to be the seventh wife of her uncle as just punishment for having read books and kissed a boy in violation of Prophet Childs' teachings, and is torn between facing her fate and running away from all that she knows and loves.

**City of Ashes** (*bk. 2 Mortal Instruments*) by Clare, Cassandra. 453 p.

Sixteen-year-old Clary continues trying to make sense of the swiftly changing events and relationships in her life as she becomes further involved with the Shadowhunters and their pursuit of demons and discovers some terrifying truths about her parents, her brother Jace, and her boyfriend Simon.

**City of Bones** (*bk. 1 Mortal Instruments*) by Clare, Cassandra. 485 p.

Suddenly able to see demons and the Shadowhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into this bizarre world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster.

**City of Fallen Angels** (*bk. 4 Mortal Instruments*) by Clare, Cassandra. 424 p.

As mysterious murders threaten the new peace between Shadowhunters and Downworlders, only Simon, the Daylighter vampire, can help bring both groups together.

**City of Glass** (*bk. 3 Mortal Instruments*) by Clare, Cassandra. 541 p.

Still pursuing a cure for her mother's enchantment, Clary uses all her powers and ingenuity to get into Idris, the forbidden country of the secretive Shadowhunters, and to its capital, the City of Glass, where with the help of a newfound friend, Sebastian, she uncovers important truths about her family's past that will not only help save her mother but all those that she holds most dear.

**City of Lost Souls** (*bk. 5 Mortal Instruments*) by Clare, Cassandra. 535 p.

When Jace vanishes with Sebastian, Clary and the Shadowhunters struggle to piece together their shattered world and Clary infiltrates the group planning the world's destruction.

**The Coldest Girl in Coldtown** by Black, Holly. 419 p.

When seventeen-year-old Tana wakes up following a party, she finds herself in the aftermath of a violent vampire attack, and along with her ex-boyfriend and a mysterious vampire boy, the only other survivors, she travels to Coldtown, a quarantined Massachusetts city full of vampires.

**Crossed** (*2<sup>nd</sup> in the Matched series*) by Condie, Ally. 367 p.

Seventeen-year-old Cassia sacrifices everything and heads to the Outer Provinces in search of Ky, where she is confronted with shocking revelations about Society and the promise of rebellion.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night** by Haddon, Mark. 226 p.

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

**Dead to You** by McMann, Lisa. 243 p.

Having been abducted at age seven, abandoned, a foster child, and homeless, Ethan, now sixteen, is happy to be home until his brother's suspicion and his own inability to remember something unspeakable from his early childhood begin to tear the family apart.

**Dear John** by Sparks, Nicholas. 276 p.

After he is released from the Army, John Tyree plans to spend the rest of his life with University of North Carolina student Savannah Lynn Curtis, but the events of September 11 change everything.

**Dirty Little Secrets** by Omololu, Cynthia Jaynes. 212 p.

When her unstable mother dies unexpectedly, sixteen-year-old Lucy must take control and find a way to keep the long-held secret of her mother's compulsive hoarding from being revealed to friends, neighbors, and especially the media.

**Divergent** by Roth, Veronica. 487 p.

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

**A Dog's Purpose** by Cameron, W. Bruce, 319 p.

Heartwarming, insightful, and often laugh-out-loud funny, A Dog's Purpose is not only the emotional and hilarious story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend. This moving and beautifully crafted story teaches us that love never dies, that our true friends are always with us, and that every creature on earth is born with a purpose.

**Eleanor & Park** by Rowell, Rainbow. 328 p.

"Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try"--Provided by publisher.

**Eldest** (*2<sup>nd</sup> of Inheritance series*) by Paolini, Christopher. 681 p.

After successfully evading an Urgals ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.

**Ellen Foster** by Gibbons, Kaye. 126 p.

Having suffered abuse and misfortune for much of her life, a young child searches for a better life and finally gets a break in the home of a loving woman with several foster children.

**Eragon** (*1<sup>st</sup> of Inheritance series*) by Paolini, Christopher. 648 p.

Eragon, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage, is shocked to discover a dragon egg and soon finds his life weaved into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

**Esperanza Rising** by Munoz Ryan, Pam. 262 p.

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

**Extras** (*4<sup>th</sup> in Uglies series*) Westerfield, Scott. 417 p.

Now that the world is in a complete cultural renaissance, fifteen-year-old Aya Fuse, an Extra, just wants to lay low, so when she discovers the secret lives of the Sly Girls, she wants to report their story, but Aya knows that would propel her into celebrity--a status she's not prepared for.

**Fahrenheit 451** by Bradbury, Ray. 159 p.

After learning that books are a vital part of a culture he never knew, a book-burning official in a future fascist state clandestinely pursues reading until he is betrayed.

**Fallen Angels** by Myers, Walter Dean. 309 p.

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

**The Fault in Our Stars** by Green, John. 318 p.

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is completely rewritten. John Green's heartbreaking work brilliantly explores the tragic business of being alive and in love.

**The First Part Last** by Johnson, Angela. 131 p.

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

**The Five People You Meet in Heaven** by Albom, Mitch. 196 p.

A bitter eighty-three-year-old war veteran who believes his life is meaningless dies while trying to save a little girl's life and finds himself in heaven, where five people from his past--some loved ones, some strangers--explain what his years on Earth really meant, and whether or not he succeeded in saving the child.

**Flash Burnout : a novel** by Madigan, L. K. 332 p.

Fifteen-year-old amateur photographer Blake gains self-awareness through his relationships with a girlfriend and a friend who he helps come to terms with her feelings about her homeless, methamphetamine-addicted mother.

**For One More Day** by Albom, Mitch. 197 p.

After years of drinking, being rejected by his wife and daughter, and a suicide attempt, ex-baseball star Charley Benetto returns to his childhood home where he encounters the ghost of his mother, who tells him family secrets and guides him in making his life better.

**The Graveyard Book** by Gaiman, Neil. 312 p.

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

**The Grimm Legacy** by Shulman, Polly. 325 p.

New York high school student Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the "New-York Circulating Material Repository," and when she gains coveted access to its Grimm Collection of magical objects, she and the other pages are drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods.

**Heaven** by Johnson, Angela 138 p.

Fourteen-year-old Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.

**The Help** by Stockett, Kathryn. 453 p.

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.

**Hold Still** by LaCour, Nina. 229 p.

Caitlin wrestles with her feelings of devastation and helplessness after her friend Ingrid commits suicide, and she turns to her family and newfound friends for help while encountering love, broadening her horizons, and using Ingrid's journal to heal.

**The Hunger Games** (*1<sup>st</sup> in Hunger Games series*) by Collins, Suzanne. 374 p.

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

**Hush : an Irish princess' tale** by Napoli, Donna Jo. 340 p.

Melkorka, an Irish Princess, is kidnapped by Russian slave traders, and learns how to survive amidst her captors' brutality while adhering to a vow of silence that gives her unique power.

**If I Stay** by Forman, Gayle. 259 p.

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

**If You Find Me** by Murdoch, Emily. 248p.

Living in a broken-down camper hidden in a forest, fifteen year-old Carey and her younger sister, Jenessa, just have each other. After their mentally ill mother disappears for good and they are put into foster care, Carey must face the truth of why her mother abducted her ten years ago, and find the reason why Jenessa has not spoken in over a year.

**The Impossible Knife of Memory** by Anderson, Laurie Halse. 293 p.

"Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a 'normal' life, but the horrors he saw in the war threaten to destroy their lives"--Provided by publisher.

**I'm With Stupid** by Herbach, Geoff. 309 p.

Sequel to: *Stupid Fast*. "It's nerd-turned-jock Felton Reinstein's last year before college, and the choices he makes now will affect the rest of his life. That's a lot of pressure. Before leaving home forever, Felton will have to figure out just who he is, even if, sometimes, it sucks to be him." -- Provided by publisher.

**Inheritance** (4<sup>th</sup> of *Inheritance series*) by Paolini, Christopher. 648 p.

Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, having spent months in training and battle, face the evil king Galbatorix in order to restore justice to Alagaesia, but worry they are not strong enough to defeat him.

**Ironsides: a Modern Faery's Tale** by Black, Holly. 323 p.

As the possessor of Roibin's true name, sixteen-year-old Kaye returns to Faeryland to try and complete a nearly-impossible quest that will release him from the spell of the faery queen who holds him in thrall.

**It's Kind of a Funny Story** by Vizzini, Ned. 444 p.

New York City teenager Craig Gilner succumbs to academic and social pressures at an elite high school and enters a psychiatric hospital after attempting suicide.

**Kindred** by Butler, Octavia E. 264 p.

A young African-American woman is mysteriously transferred back in time leading to an irresistible curiosity about her family's past.

**The Lilies of the Field** by Barrett, William E. 127 p.

A young African-American man driving through the Southwest helps a group of German refugee nuns build a church.



**The Living** by de la Pena, Matt. 311 p.

After an earthquake destroys California and a tsunami wrecks the luxury cruise ship where he is a summer employee, high schooler Shy confronts another deadly surprise.

**Looking for Alaska** by Green, John. 221 p.

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

**The Madman's Daughter** by Shepherd, Megan. 420 p.

Dr. Moreau's daughter, Juliet, travels to her estranged father's island, only to encounter murder, medical horrors, and a love triangle.

**Matched** (*1<sup>st</sup> in Matched series*) by Condie, Allyson Braithwaite. 369 p.

Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her, but when she is being paired with her ideal mate, a second face flashes on the screen, and Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility as she tries to decide which man she truly loves.

**Montana 1948 : a novel** by Watson, Larry. 169 p.

David's life is profoundly affected by the events of 1948 when his father, the town sheriff, is forced to choose between loyalty to his family, or seeking justice for young Sioux women who claim to have been molested by David's uncle, a doctor and war hero.

**The Natural** by Malamud, Bernard. 231 p.

Gifted baseball player Roy Hobbs, his career derailed by a youthful indiscretion, makes a stunning comeback in later life, but finds himself still struggling against the temptations that would bring him to ruin.

**Num8ers** by Ward, Rachel. 325 p.

Fifteen-year-old Jem knows when she looks at someone the exact date they will die, so she avoids relationships and tries to keep out of the way, but when she meets a boy named Spider and they plan a day out together, they become more involved than either of them had planned.

**Out of the Easy** by Sepetys, Ruta. 455 p.

Josie, the seventeen-year-old daughter of a French Quarter prostitute, is striving to escape 1950 New Orleans and enroll at prestigious Smith College when she becomes entangled in a murder investigation.

**Perfect Chemistry** (*1<sup>st</sup> in Perfect Chemistry series*) by Elkeles, Simone. 360 p.

When wealthy, seemingly perfect Brittany and Alex Fuentes, a gang member from the other side of town, develop a relationship after Alex discovers that Brittany is not exactly who she seems to be, they must face the disapproval of their schoolmates--and others.

**The Perks of Being a Wallflower** by Chbosky, Stephen. 213 p.

Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the dilemmas of growing up through a collection of letters he sends to an unknown receiver.

**Pick-up Game : a full day of full court** Various authors. 170 p.

A series of short stories by such authors as Walter Dean Myers, Rita Williams-Garcia, and Joseph Bruchac, interspersed with poems and photographs, provides different perspectives on a game of streetball played one steamy July day at the West 4th Street court in New York City known as The Cage.

**The Picture of Dorian Gray** by Wilde, Oscar. 248 p.

Oscar Wilde's story in which an incredibly handsome young man in Victorian England retains his youthful appearance over the years while his portrait reflects both his age and evil soul as he pursues a life of decadence and corruption

**Pictures of Hollis Woods** by Reilly Giff, Patricia. 166 p.

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

**A Plague Year** by Bloor, Edward. 305 p.

Tom has long dreamed of getting out of Blackwater, Pennsylvania, and going to college somewhere warm and sunny, but when a plague of meth addiction sweeps through town in 2001, ruining the lives of friends, teachers, and parents, he finds it difficult to leave.

**Plainsong** by Haruf, Kent. 301 p.

Examines the separate lives of a school teacher, a pregnant teenage girl, and two elderly bachelors to show how they all come together to form their own community.

**Please Ignore Vera Dietz** by King, A. S. (Amy Sarig). 326 p.

When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name.

**Pretties** (2<sup>nd</sup> in *Uglies series*) by Westerfield, Scott. 370 p.

Tally's perfect life as a Pretty is disrupted when she receives a letter from herself, written when she was an Ugly, reminding her of the promise she made to take a drug developed to cure the brain lesions that keep the Pretties shallow and happy--and when she takes the pills, she becomes a target of those determined to keep Pretty society carefree.

**Pride and Prejudice** by Austen, Jane. 399 p.

In late eighteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with courtship by a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her sisters.

**Reality Boy** by King, A. S. 353 p.

"An emotionally damaged seventeen-year-old boy in Pennsylvania who was once an infamous reality television show star, meets a girl from another dysfunctional family, and she helps him out of his angry shell" - - Provided by publisher.

**Revolution is Not a Dinner Party** by Compestine, Ying Chang. 249 p.

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter.

**Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry** by Taylor, Mildred. 276 p.

An African-American family in Depression era Mississippi battles the odds to hold onto their property and their self-respect.

**Rotten** by Northrop, Michael. 246 p.

Living on the University of Colorado-Boulder campus with his older brother Alex, a college student and ex-gang member, high school senior Carlos is not ready to give up his wild ways until he meets a shy classmate named Kiara and becomes unwillingly involved in a drug ring

**Rules of Attraction** (2<sup>nd</sup> in *Perfect Chemistry series*) by Elkeles, Simone. 326 p.

Living on the University of Colorado-Boulder campus with his older brother Alex, a college student and ex-gang member, high school senior Carlos is not ready to give up his wild ways until he meets a shy classmate named Kiara and becomes unwillingly involved in a drug ring.

**Scorpions** by Myers, Walter Dean. 216 p.

After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun--until a tragedy occurs.

**The Secret Life of Bees** by Kidd, Sue Monk. 301 p.

Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina, at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.

**The Secret to Lying** by Mitchell, Todd. 328 p.

Fifteen-year-old James lies about himself to be considered "cool" when he gets into an exclusive boarding school, but soon unnaturally vivid dreams of being a demon-hunting warrior lead to self-destructive acts while he is awake.

**Ship Breaker** by Bacigalupi, Paolo. 326 p.

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

**Shoeless Joe** by Kinsella, W. P. 265 p.

An Iowa farmer builds a baseball stadium in his cornfield, hoping his hero, Shoeless Joe Jackson, will play in it.

**A Single Shard** by Park, Linda Sue. 152 p.

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

**The Sky is Everywhere** by Nelson, Jandy. 275 p.

In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician.

**Soccerland** by Choat, Beth. 231 p.

Flora Dupre has a chance to fulfill a life-long dream and keep the promise she made to her mother before losing her to cancer when Flora receives an invitation to try out for the Under-15 US Girls' National Soccer Team at the International Sports Academy, but a family tragedy forces Flora to reexamine her priorities and determine what soccer means to her.

**Speak** by Anderson, Laurie Halse. 197 p.

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

**Specials** (3<sup>rd</sup> in *Uglies series*) by Westerfeld, Scott. 372 p.

After being captured and surgically transformed into a "special," teenaged Tally Youngblood, now a government agent programmed to protect society from outside threats, is ordered to eliminate the rebel colony New Smoke, Tally's former home.

**Stay With Me** by Griffin, Paul. 288 p.

Fifteen-year-olds Mack, a high school drop-out but a genius with dogs, and Cece, who hopes to use her intelligence to avoid a life like her mother's, meet and fall in love at the restaurant where they both work, but when Mack lands in prison, he pushes Cece away and only a one-eared pit-bull can keep them together.

**Stolen** by Christopher, Lucy. 299 p.

Sixteen-year-old Gemma, a British city-dweller, is abducted while on vacation with her parents and taken to the Australian outback, where she soon realizes that escape attempts are futile, and in time she learns that her captor is not as despicable as she first believed.

**The Stranger** by Camus, Albert. 154p

Caught in the grip of forces he does not understand, a quiet, unassuming clerk commits murder in Algeria.

**Stripes of the Sidestep Wolf** by Harnett, Sonya. 200 p.

Satchel O'Rye, devoted son of an impoverished couple in a dying rural town, must weigh in balance the life of his most cherished dog and the freedom of a rare striped tiger.

**Summer of Fear** by Duncan, Lois. 207 p.

Soon after the arrival of cousin, Julia, insidious occurrences begin that convince Rachel she is a witch and must be stopped before her total monstrous plan can be effected.

**Sunrise Over Fallujah** by Myers, Walter Dean. 290 p.

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

**Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas** by Patterson, James. 289 p.

Katie Wilkinson, blissfully in love, is suddenly abandoned by the man who made her happy, left with only a diary written by a new mother named Suzanne for her infant son, Nicholas-- as Katie reads, she gains a new understanding of Matt, the man who left her.

**Sweetgrass Basket** by Carvell, Marlene. 243 p.

In alternating passages, two Mohawk sisters describe their lives at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, established in 1879 to educate Native Americans, as they try to assimilate into white culture and one of them is falsely accused of stealing.

**Sweet, Hereafter** by Johnson, Angela. 118 p.

Sweet leaves her family and goes to live in a cabin in the woods with the quiet but understanding Curtis, to whom she feels intensely connected, just as he is called back to serve again in Iraq.

**Tears of a Tiger** by Draper, Sharon. 162 p.

The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car and many others in the school.

**The Thin Executioner** by Shan, Darren. 483 p.

In a nation of warriors where weakness is shunned and all crimes, no matter how minor, are punishable by beheading, young Jebel Rum, along with a slave who is fated to be sacrificed, sets forth on a quest to petition the Fire God for invincibility, but when the long and arduous journey is over, Jebel has learned much about fairness and the value of life.

**Thirteen Reasons Why: a novel** by Asher, Jay. 288 p.

High school student Clay Jensen receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

**A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Hosseini, Khaled. 372 p.

A novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban, which tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband.

**Three Rivers Rising : a novel of the Johnstown Flood** by Richards, Jame. 293 p.

Sixteen-year-old Celestia is a wealthy member of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, where she meets and falls in love with Peter, a hired hand who lives in the valley below, and by the time of the torrential rains that lead to the disastrous Johnstown flood of 1889, she has been disowned by her family and is staying with him in Johnstown.

**Tiger Lily** by Anderson, Jodi Lynn 292 p.

Fifteen-year-old Tiger Lily receives special protections from the spiritual forces of Neverland, but then she meets her tribe's most dangerous enemy--Peter Pan--and falls in love with him.

**Transall Saga** by Paulsen, Gary. 248 p.

While backpacking in the desert, 13 year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported into a primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

**Twisted** by Anderson, Laurie Halse 250 p.

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

**Uglies** (*1<sup>st</sup> in Uglies series*) by Scott Westerfeld, 425 p.

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

**Watership Down** by Adams, Richard. 429 p.

Powerful saga of courage, leadership and survival, chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

**The Westing Game** by Raskin, Ellen. 185 p.

The death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

**Where the Heart Is: a novel** by Letts, Billie. 376 p.

Novalee Nation, seventeen, pregnant, and living in a Wal-Mart store discovers friendship, encouragement, direction and love with a group of caring people in Sequoyah, Oklahoma.

**Wrestling Sturbridge** by Wallace, Rich. 133 p.

Stuck in a small town where no one ever leaves and relegated by his wrestling coach to sit on the bench while his best friend becomes state champion, Ben decides he can't let his last high school wrestling season slip by without challenging his friend and the future.

## **Nonfiction:**

**All Creatures Great and Small** by Herriot, James. 437 p.

An English veterinarian reminisces about his life, career, and animal patients in a small village.

**Andy Warhol; prince of pop** by Greenberg, Jan. 208 p.

Chronicles the life of pop artist Andy Warhol, describing his childhood in Pittsburgh, the development of the Factory, and his rise to fame.

**The Blind Side : evolution of a game** by Lewis, Michael. 299 p.

Details the life of University of Mississippi football player Michael Oher, who was raised by a crack addicted mother and adopted at the age of sixteen by a wealthy family, and explores the rising importance and salary of the offensive left tackle in the game of football.

**Bomb: the race to build and steal the world's most dangerous weapon** by Sheinkin, Steve. 266 p.

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

**Breaking Night : a memoir of forgiveness, survival, and my journey from homeless to Harvard** by Murray, Liz. 341 p.

Memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard.

***The Children of Willesden Lane : beyond the Kindertransport : a memoir of music, love, and survival*** by Golabek, Mona. 272 p.

World-renowned concert pianist Mona Golabek shares her mother's journey through World War II and of the extraordinary gift that became her enduring legacy to her daughter, the gift of music.

***Chinese Cinderella: the true story of an unwanted daughter*** by Yen Mah, Adeline. 205 p.

The daughter of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman describes her very difficult childhood and the psychological abuse she suffered at the hands of her stepmother.

***Death Be Not Proud*** by Gunther, John. 205 p.

A biography of the author's son, who died at seventeen after a fourteen-month illness caused by a brain tumor.

***First They Killed My Father: a daughter of Cambodia remembers*** by Ung, Loung. 238p.

Loung Ung, one of seven children of a high-ranking government official in Phnom Penh, tells of her experiences after her family was forced to flee from Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army, discussing her training as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans, and telling of how her surviving siblings were eventually reunited.

***A Girl's Life Online*** by Tarbox, Katherine. 196 p.

Previously published as ***Katie.com.*** The author explains how and why she became involved, at the age of thirteen, with a middle-aged man who poses as a lonely twenty-three-year-old; and shares the story of her ordeal after she realized, almost too late, that things are not always as they seem online.

***The Glass Castle*** by Walls, Jeanette. 288 p.

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.

***The Greatest: Muhammad Ali*** by Myers, Walter Dean. 164 p.

An illustrated biography of boxing great Muhammad Ali that addresses his politics, his fight against Parkinson's disease, and boxing's dangers.

***Having Our Say*** by Delaney, Sarah and Elizabeth with Amy Hill. 299 p.

Bessie Delany and her older sister, Sadie are 101 and 103 years old respectively, recall their remarkable lives spanning more than a century. In this remarkable and charming oral history, the sisters reflect on their rich family life and their careers as pioneering African American professionals.



**Heaven Is for Real** by Burpo, Todd. 163 p.

Todd Burpo shares his son Colton's experiences having visions of heaven after a near-fatal illness, describing what Colton saw in heaven and the lessons he has learned about faith and love after listening to Colton's stories of his time with Jesus.

**Hitler Youth: growing up in Hitler's shadow** Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. 176 p.

A photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl.

**Hole in My Life** by Gantos, Jack. 199 p.

In *Hole in My Life*, this prizewinning author of over thirty books for young people confronts the period of struggle and confinement that marked the end of his own youth. On the surface, the narrative tumbles from one crazed moment to the next as Gantos pieces together the story of his restless final year of high school, his short-lived career as a criminal, and his time in prison. But running just beneath the action is the story of how Gantos – once he was locked up in a small, yellow-walled cell – moved from wanting to be a writer to writing, and how dedicating himself more fully to the thing he most wanted to do helped him endure and ultimately overcome the worst experience of his life.

**I Don't Want to Be Crazy** by Schutz, Samantha. 280 p.

A poetry memoir in which the author tells of the pressures that led her to suffer debilitating anxiety attacks, and the path she took to coping and recovery.

**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Angelou, Maya.

Poet Maya Angelou chronicles her early life, focusing on her childhood in 1930s rural Arkansas, including her rape at the age of five, her subsequent years of muteness, and the strength she gained from her grandmother and Mrs. Bertha Flowers, a respected African-American woman in her town.

**Into Thin Air** by Krakauer, Jon. 293 p.

The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

**John Lennon: all I want is the truth** by Partridge, Elizabeth. 232 p.

The story of one of rock's biggest legends, from his birth during a 1940 World War II air raid on Liverpool, through his turbulent childhood and teen years, to his celebrated life writing, recording, and performing with the Beatles and beyond.

**Last Chance in Texas: the redemption of criminal youth** by Hubner, John. 277 p.

Journalist John Hubner reveals the aggressive methods used by the Giddings State School in Texas to rehabilitate criminal youths.

**Moonbird: a year on the wind with the great survivor B95** by Hoose, Phillip. 148 p.  
Chronicles a year in the life of rufa red knot B95, also called Moonbird, following him through his migration pattern and discussing the environmental problems that caused the rufa population to collapsed by nearly eighty percent.

**Rapture Practice** by Hartzler, Aaron. 390 p.  
Aaron Hartzler discusses his life as a Christian boy who was always expecting the Rapture and slowly realizing that he had different beliefs.

**Relish: my life in the kitchen** by Blumenthal, Karen. 173 p.  
Presents a graphic novel memoir of cartoonist Lucy Knisley and her obsession with cooking and food.

**Steve Jobs: the man who thought different: a biography** by Blumenthal, Karen. 310 p.  
Chronicles the life and accomplishments of Apple mogul Steve Jobs, discussing his ideas, and describing how he has influenced life in the twenty-first century.

**Three Little Words** by Rhodes-Courter, Ashley. 304 p.  
Ashley spent nine years in foster care after being taken away from her mother. She endured many caseworkers, moving from school to school and manipulative, humiliating and abusive treatment from one foster family. See how she survives and eventually thrives against the odds.

**Travels with Charley: in search of America** by Steinbeck, John. 277 p.  
Contains observations about life and descriptions of nature as described by Steinbeck as he traveled from coast to coast at sixty years of age with his French poodle, Charley.

**Tree shaker : the story of Nelson Mandela** by Keller, Bill. 128 p.  
Explores the life and accomplishments of Nelson Mandela, discussing his political protests, imprisonment, selection as president of South Africa, and more.

**Unbroken: a World War II story of survival, resilience and redemption** by Hillenbrand, Laura. 473 p.  
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.

**Vincent Van Gogh Portrait of an Artist** by Greenberg, Jan and Jordan, Sandra. 132 p.  
The book chronicles the life of nineteenth-century painter, Vincent Van Gogh. It describes his childhood in Holland, his years in France, his relationships with his brother and with fellow artist, Paul Gauguin, his difficulties with women, his mental health and his artistic vision.

### **Lexile text measure**

A Lexile text measure is the specific number assigned to any text indicating its reading demand in terms of its semantic difficulty (vocabulary) and syntactic complexity (sentence length). A computer program called the Lexile Analyzer computes the measure. The Lexile Analyzer carefully examines the whole text to measure two characteristics: sentence length and word frequency. Research has proven that these characteristics are highly related to overall reading comprehension. The Lexile Analyzer then reports the Lexile measure of the text.

### **Book levels - ATOS**

Book levels (BL) are a quantitative measure of the difficulty of a text—they do not relate to a quality or appropriateness. The ATOS Readability Formula for books determines Accelerated Reader book levels. (ATOS stands for Advantage/TASA Open Standard.) The readability levels in ATOS are determined by full-text computer scans of all the words in a book, not just sample passages. The levels indicate the text's difficulty and help predict which books individual readers may comprehend. ATOS does not analyze literary merit or suitability of the content.

### **RC levels**

Are grade equivalent levels supplied by the publisher to Scholastic.