

**HILLSIDE SCHOOL  
SUMMER READING LIST  
2023**

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- 1) Each student is responsible for reading one Required Book for his grade, listed below.
- 2) Each student is responsible for reading *at least* two additional books of his choice. There are suggested books listed here, but students are not limited to these books. The additional books are simply suggestions for that grade's reading level.

**STUDENTS ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE**

**REQUIRED: You must read the following:**

**The Outsiders** S.E. Hinton \*

The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parents' death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

*Suggestions for Additional Book Choices:*

**Across Five Aprils** Irene Hunt

Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in southern Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

**The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel** Michael Scott \*

While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

**The Art of Keeping Cool** Janet Taylor Lisle (*Scott O'Dell Award*)

In 1942, Robert and his cousin Elliot uncover long-hidden family secrets while staying in their grandparents' Rhode Island town, where they also become involved with a German artist who is suspected of being a spy.

**Chasing Lincoln's Killer** James L. Swanson\*

Recounts the escape of President Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, and follows the twelve-day search for him.

**Chocolate War** Robert Cormier \*

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 Ear, the Eye, and the Arm** Nancy Farmer (*Newbery Honor Book*) \*

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

**Fallen Angels** Walter Dean Myers \*

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.

**Fever 1793** Laurie Halse Anderson \*

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

**The Giver** Lois Lowry (*1994 Newbery Medal*) \*

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** Douglas Adams \*

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Together, this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by a galaxy full of fellow travelers.

**The Hobbit or There and Back Again** J.R.R. Tolkien \*

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

**The Hunger Games** Suzanne Collins \*

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

**Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery** John Feinstein

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

**The Lost Hero, The Heroes of Olympus Series** Rick Riordan \*

Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself.

**Million Dollar Throw** Mike Lupica \*

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind. When Nate gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

**Over Sea, Under Stone** Susan Cooper (*Award winning series*) \*

Three children on a holiday in Cornwall find an ancient manuscript which entraps them in the eternal battle between the forces of the Light and the forces of the Dark.

**Peak** Roland Smith \*

Peak is a natural-born climber. When he's apprehended four feet from the top of the Woolworth Building, he's rescued from juvie by his estranged father who sees the prospect of making his son the youngest ever to summit the great peak as the surest way of cementing his business success.

**Raven's Gate (Gatekeeper's Series)** Anthony Horowitz \*

Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled fourteen-year-old English boy, uncovers an evil plot involving witchcraft and the site of an ancient stone circle.

**Samurai Shortstop** Alan Gratz

While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, sixteen-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.

**Shakespeare Bats Cleanup** Ron Koertge

When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss.

**Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance** Jennifer Armstrong

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

**Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West** Sid Fleischman \*

The story of a wisecracking adventurer who came of age in the untamed West. A rebel who surprised himself by becoming the most famous American of his time.

**When Zachary Beaver Came to Town** Kimberly Willis Holt

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the heaviest boy in the world.

**Zen and the Art of Faking It** Jordan Sonnenblick

When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out. His knowledge of Zen Buddhism provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

\*You may enjoy other books by this author or other books in this series

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note:

Michael L. Printz Award (American Library Association award given for "Excellence in Young Adult Literature")

Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction