

2011 Summer Reading Requirement
Bassick * Central * Harding

All students entering grades 9-12 will be required to read two books (three books if enrolled in Central Magnet) from a list of ten choices. The choices selected represent a range of reading levels, a mix of genres, and demonstrated high interest level for young adults. As you read the novels, take notes using the graphic organizer attached. Copies of the graphic organizer can also be downloaded from the Bridgeport Central Web Site: <http://www.bptcentral.org>.

You will be required to complete an in class book talk where you may use the notes from your graphic organizer the second week of school. These notes and your oral book talk will count as 10% of your first marking period grade.

Requirements: Read 2 books (3 if enrolled in Central Magnet). Take notes on the books read using the graphic organizer. Bring notes to class, as well as this sheet with your parent/guardian signature, to use with in-class book talk assessment.

Date Due: Week of August 29.

Name: _____ Date: _____
2010-2011 English Teacher: _____

My son/daughter has successfully completed the summer reading requirement:

(signature)

(relationship to student)

2011 Book Choices (Available on reserve at local branch libraries):

Avasthi, Swati. *Split*.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*.

Beckett, Bernard. *Genesis*

Carter, Ally. *Heist Society*

De La Pena, Matt. *We Were Here*.

Diaz Gonzalez, Christina. *The Red Umbrella*

Donnelly, Jennifer. *Revolution*

La Coer, Nina. *Hold Still*.

Lockhart, E. *Dramarama*

Oliveira, Robin. *I am Mary Sutter*.

Grennan, Connor. *Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal*.

Oher, Michael, and Don Yeager. *I Beat the Odds: From Homelessness, to the Blind Side, and Beyond*.

NOTE: There are additional supplemental titles from the 2006-2010 reading lists that may be read by entering 9th grade students. These titles are on reserve at local branch libraries.

2011 Summer Reading Selections

Avasthi, Swati. *Split*. Hardcover. \$6.80. 288 pages. Fiction.

After Jace Witherspoon is kicked out by his abusive father, he seeks refuge with his older brother, whom he hasn't seen in six years. Their mother, also a victim of her husband's abuse, promises to leave him and join her children. Jace starts a new life and rebuilds his relationship with Christian, but he's haunted by a terrible secret and the people he left behind. Jace is quick-tempered, proud, and charming, like his father. Christian is more like their mother: restrained, deliberate, and humble. Their father's abuse has made Christian emotionally distant, but Jace's presence forces him to open up and confront his guilt about leaving his sibling behind. The brothers' relationship grows as they turn to each other to escape from their father's shadow.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*. Paperback. \$9.99. 336 pages. Fiction.

A fast-paced postapocalyptic adventure set on the American Gulf Coast. Nailor works light crew; his dirty, dangerous job is to crawl deep into the wrecks of the ancient oil tankers that line the beach, scavenging copper wire and turning it over to his crew boss. After a brutal hurricane, Nailor and his friend Pima stumble upon the wreck of a luxurious clipper ship. It's filled with valuable goods—a "Lucky Strike" that could make them rich, if only they can find a safe way to cash it in. Amid the wreckage, a girl barely clings to life. If they help her, she tells them, she can show them a world of privilege that they have never known. But can they trust her? And if so, can they keep the girl safe from Nailor's drug-addicted father? This book will appeal to fans of action-oriented science fiction.

Beckett, Bernard. *Genesis*. Paperback. \$8.22. 150 pages. Fiction.

In this near-future tale, as Anax, a young historian, endures an examination by the Academy--an order of philosopher-rulers as imagined in Plato's *Republic*--we're brought up quickly on a catastrophic backstory: accelerating climate change, dust storms, rising fear and fundamentalism, the Last War, and the rise of a new Plato, who builds an island republic and seals it behind a Great Sea Fence. Plagues decimate human populations outside, while the Republic's surveillance society flourishes under the Orwellian motto "Forward towards the past"--until it falls to forces led by the young rebel Adam Forde. The Academy interrogates Anax on Adam's period of imprisonment with the most advanced android of his time, and we witness their vicious sparring on the virtues of men and machines, the nature of consciousness, and what gives any life worth. *Genesis* reads like a thriller to the last word, propelled by the power of ideas longing to be unleashed.

Carter, Ally. *Heist Society*. Paperback. \$8.99. 304 pages. Fiction.

Tired of her involvement in her family's illicit dealings, Katarina Bishop enrolls herself in a prestigious boarding school. After only three months, 16-year-old billionaire Hale arranges for her to get kicked out. He informs her that five paintings have been stolen from the menacing Arturo Taccone and that her father is the prime suspect. Determined to save him by locating the real thief and stealing the paintings back, Kat gathers a crack team of larcenous teens for the heist to be pulled off before the two-week deadline. However, her resolve falters when she learns that the paintings are Nazi war spoils. She negotiates complicated relationships in an action-packed plot. Amid themes of family loyalty and identity, the protagonist comes to understand herself, her beliefs, and her place in her family. Daring, delicious, elevated by glamour, but filled with a sense of purpose, *Heist Society* mixes classic elements of the adolescent coming of age story into a high-stakes escapade.

De La Pena, Matt. *We Were Here*. Paperback. \$8.99. 368 pages. Fiction.

Miguel struggles to forgive himself for a tragic event that changed his life and his family forever. He willingly accepts his one-year sentence to a juvenile detention center and the requirement that he keep a journal—thus, the story is told in Miguel's words. At the Center, he befriends Rondell, a mentally challenged teen prone to violent outbursts, and Mong, a troubled boy with myriad physical and emotional problems. Mong organizes an escape, and Miguel and Rondell agree to join him. The boys' convoluted travels take them up and down the California coast and are recorded in Miguel's journal, along with his personal journey of self-discovery.

Diaz Gonzalez, Christina. *The Red Umbrella*. Hardcover. \$11.55. 288 pages. Fiction.

When Castro comes to power, teenage Lucía wants nothing to do with the revolution; she is more worried about what to wear to the school dance. Then she witnesses the horrifying public hanging of her father's boss, and her parents send her and her little brother, Frank, to safety in the U.S., where a church places them with a kind foster family in Nebraska. Based on the author's parents' story, Gonzalez's novel captures the heart-wrenching, personal drama of family separation. At the start of each chapter, a brief newspaper headline gives a glimpse into Cuban politics and history, but the core of Lucía's first-person narrative is her emotional upheaval as she cares for Frank and tries to fit into her eighth-grade class, where everything is strange and different. The characters, including the loving, imperfect adults, are authentic, and teens will recognize Lucía's rebellious moments, which sometimes get ugly, as well as her hope for reunion with her family.

Donnelly, Jennifer. *Revolution*. Paperback. \$9.99. 496 pages. Fiction.

This novel weaves together the lives of Andi Alpers, a depressed modern-day teenager, and Alexandrine Paradis, a brave young woman caught up in the French Revolution. While in Paris with her estranged father, a Nobel geneticist hired to match the DNA of a heart said to belong to the last dauphin of France, Andi discovers a diary hidden within a guitar case--and so begins the story of Alexandrine, who had close ties to the dauphin. Redemption and the will to change are powerful themes of the novel, and music is ever present--Andi and Alex have a passion for the guitar, and the playlist running through *Revolution* is a who's who of classic and contemporary influences. Danger, intrigue, music, and impeccably researched history fill the pages of *Revolution*, as both young women learn that, "it is love, not death, that undoes us."

La Coer, Nina. *Hold Still*. Paperback. \$8.99. 256 pages. Fiction.

After losing her best friend, Ingrid, to suicide, Caitlin is completely immobilized. Unable to function, and refusing to visit a therapist, she begins the long journey to wellness. During this year of heart-wrenching, raw emotion, Caitlin finds Ingrid's journal, which not only reveals her descent into irreversible depression, but also serves as Caitlin's vehicle for renewed hope in the future. The book is written with honesty, revealing one's pain after the loss of a loved one. Caitlin learns, with the help of new friends and her parents, that there is life after Ingrid.

Lockhart, E. *Dramarama*. Paperback. \$7.99. 320 pages. Fiction.

Sayde and Demi are theater-crazy best friends who are each other's only solace in their drab Ohio town. They successfully audition for a prestigious summer drama camp and are ecstatic to be heading to New York. Encouraged to become part of the ensemble, Sayde finds she is too opinionated to do that, even as it turns out that she is less talented than she believed. At the same time, Demi is discovering that he's a star who can hang out with actual boyfriends rather than Sayde. Most of the story is told in a smart and very funny voice. Many musicals (*Birdie! Cabaret! Cats!*) are referenced so theater lovers will applaud, and everyone else will appreciate the twists and the ending you don't see coming.

Oliveira, Robin. *I am Mary Sutter*. Paperback. \$8.49. 384 pages. Fiction.

The Civil War offers a 20-year-old midwife who dreams of becoming a doctor the medical experience she craves, plus hard work and heartbreak. Though she's too young for the nursing corps, Mary Sutter goes to Washington, anyway, and, after a chance meeting with a presidential secretary, is led to the Union Hotel Hospital, where she assists chief surgeon William Stipp and becomes so integral to Stipp's work she ignores her mother's pleas to return home to deliver her sister's baby. Told from a variety of perspectives, the novel offers a picture of a time of medical hardship, crisis, and opportunity. Oliveira depicts the amputation of a leg, the delivery of a baby, and soldierly life, which are among the fine details that set this novel above the gauzier variety of Civil War fiction. The focus on often horrific medicine and the women who practiced it against all odds makes for compelling reading.

Grennan, Connor. *Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal*. Hardcover. \$14.63. 304 pages. Nonfiction.

Grennan embarked on a round-the-world trip in 2006, starting with a stint volunteering for an orphanage six miles south of Kathmandu. The Little Princes Children's Home housed 18 children from the remote province of Humla who had been rescued from a notorious child trafficker. Grennan was stunned by the trauma endured by these children, whom he grew to love during his stay. After completing his world tour, he returned to the orphanage and vowed not only to locate seven Humla orphans who had vanished from a foster home, but also to find the parents of the children in the orphanage. This required starting up a nonprofit organization in America, Next Generation Nepal, raising funds, buying a house in Kathmandu for the children's home, and trekking into the mountains of Humla to locate the parents.

Oher, Michael, and Don Yeager. *I Beat the Odds: From Homelessness, to the Blind Side, and Beyond*. Hardcover. \$14.81. 272 pages. Nonfiction.

Michael Oher, the young man at the center of the *The Blind Side*, tells his own story. Though the odds were heavily stacked against him, Michael had a burning desire deep within his soul to break out of the Memphis inner-city ghetto and into a world of opportunity. While you may be familiar with Oher's amazing journey, this is the first time he shares his account in his own words, revealing thoughts and feelings with details that only he knows, and offering his point of view on how anyone can achieve a better life. He describes the absolute necessity of seeking out positive role models and good friends who share the same values to achieve one's dreams. Sharing untold stories of heartache, determination, courage, and love, *I Beat the Odds* is an incredibly rousing tale.

2011 Summer Reading Requirement Notes- Fiction

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title of Book Read: _____

Author: _____

Summarize:

1. Who is the most important character in the story? Why do you think so?

Analyze Plot and Conflict:

1. A summary mentions only the most important points in the work. List some of the key events in the story:

Conflict can occur between two characters, between a character and nature, between a character and society, between a character and fate, or between a character and himself or herself.

2. What is the central, or most important, conflict in the story?

3. How does the main character react to the central conflict?

4. What happens in the climax of the plot? How do the fortunes of the main character change? How is the conflict resolved?

Analyze the Main Idea and Message: The main idea of a work of fiction is the most important idea in it. It is the topic of the story, or what it is about. A story's message is its insight into life. The message is a statement of what the story means.

1. What is the story's implied message? What insights into life does the story offer?

Copy a passage from the book that made you think, or that you found funny, sad, or suspenseful. Include the page number where you found the quote. Explain why you selected the passage from the book. You will present a dramatic reading of the passage selected as part of your book talk the first week of school. (You may use a separate piece of paper).

Significance:

Recognizing the Author's Values and Beliefs:

- 4. From the details in the book, what can you infer about the background of the writer?
Does the author have any biases or use generalizations or stereotypes to support his or her main ideas?.

Copy a passage from the book that you felt was especially well written. It may be that the author's word choices or selection of details are help to convey a specific tone. Explain why you selected the passage from the book. You will present a dramatic reading of the passage selected as part of your book talk the first week of school. (You may use a separate piece of paper).

Significance:
