

# East Islip High School Summer Reading List

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Regents

Students must read a minimum of one book, suggestions below.



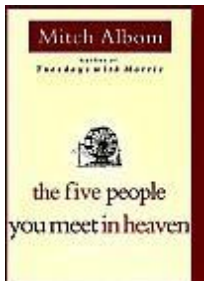
Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie  
By David Lubar

Scott Hudson chronicles the ups and downs of his eventful freshman year in high school. Along the way, he discovers that his mother is pregnant, and he writes a series of insightful letters to his soon-to-be sibling. Most readers will find plenty of amusing, accurate observations about freshman life, from the insecurities of first dates to the dangers of walking the hall between classes.



Stargirl  
By Jerry Spinelli

Spinelli spins a poignant and bittersweet story that captures the essence of nonconformity and teenage culture. Everything about Stargirl is different: She plays her guitar and sings Happy Birthday to students during lunch, commits random acts of kindness, and does not mind remaining anonymous. This is a story that will ring true both to the young reader and to the older reader who remembers being young.



The five people you meet in heaven  
By Mitch Albom

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.



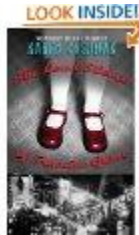
Love, Stargirl  
By Jerry Spinelli

Still moping months after being dumped by her Arizona boyfriend Leo, fifteen-year-old Stargirl, a home-schooled free spirit, writes "the world's longest letter" to Leo, describing her new life in Pennsylvania. Humor, graceful writing, lively characters and important lessons about life will make this a hit with fans of Stargirl.



The Red Badge of Courage  
By Stephen Crane

The classic story of a young Union soldier who must reconcile his conflicting emotions about war after coming under fire for the first time. Although the exact battle is never identified, Crane based this story of a soldier's experiences during the American Civil War on the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville. Many veterans, both Union and Confederate, praised the book's accurate representation of war, and critics consider its stylistic strength the mark of a literary classic.



The Loud Silence of Francine Green  
by Karen Cushman

Cushman creates another introspective female character who is planted firmly in her time and who grows in courage, self-awareness, and conviction. The story of friends and family tensions, set during the 1950s McCarthy era, has sly humor, and the questions about patriotism, activism, and freedom, bring the novel right into today's most polarizing controversies.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Authors

**Albom, Mitch:** *The First Phone Call from Heaven: A Novel, The Time Keeper, Have a Little Faith: A True Story, Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson, For One More Day, The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

**Brav, Libba:** *Beauty Queens, A Great and Terrible Beauty (The Gemma Doyle Trilogy), Going Bovine, The Diviners, The Eternal Kiss: 13 Vampire Tales of Blood and Desire*

**Card, Orson Scott:** *Ender's Game, Earth Awakens, Ender in Exile, Earth Unaware*

**Coelho, Paulo:** *The Alchemist, Warrior of the Light: A Manual, The Pilgrimage*

**Green, John:** *The Fault in Our Stars, Looking for Alaska, Paper Towns, An Abundance of Katherines*

**Meyers, Walter Dean:** *Monster, Fallen Angels, Bad Boy: A Memoir, Slam!, Sunrise Over Fallujah*

**Roth, Veronica:** *Divergent Series*

**Tolkien, J.R.R.:** *The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, The Fall of Arthur, Bilbo's Last Song, The Silmarillion (Pre-Lord of the Rings)*

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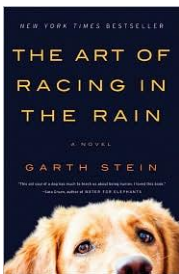
## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Regents

Students must read a minimum of one book, suggestions below.



Invisible  
By Pete Hautman

It's clear from the start that there's something not right about the relationship between narrator Doug Hanson and his best friend, Andy Morrow. The tension comes from entering Doug's private hell and learning what put him there. The truth about Andy won't come as a surprise, but there are some unexpected plot turns here, and the chilling but ambiguous denouement *is definitely unsettling*.



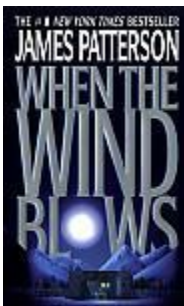
The Art of Racing in the Rain  
By Garth Stein

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver.



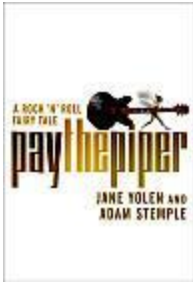
Silas Marner  
By George Eliot

Gentle linen weaver Silas Marner is wrongly accused of a heinous theft, and he exiles himself from the world--until he finds redemption and spiritual rebirth through his unselfish love for an abandoned child who mysteriously appears one day at his isolated cottage. Somber, yet hopeful, Eliot's realistic depiction of an irretrievable past, tempered with the magical elements of myth and fairy tale, remains timeless in its understanding of human nature.



When the Wind Blows  
By James Patterson

Unconventional FBI agent Kit Harrison, determined to pursue a conspiracy of illegal human genetic experimentation, travels to Colorado where he and veterinarian Frannie O'Neill work together to save a group of children who can fly. Patterson knows how to entertain. His chapters are always short (some only two pages), and his writing is clear and unobtrusive; the reading experience is brisk--akin to watching a summer blockbuster.



Pay the Piper  
By Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple

Yolen and her son, a professional musician, have produced a rollicking good riff on the Pied Piper. Callie, 14, attends a folk rock concert featuring Brass Rat, which she will write up for her school paper. The next night, Halloween, she stays home to write her review. Meanwhile, Brass Rat's leader has a story of his own. As the exiled son of the Faery king, he must, every seven years, tithe gold, silver, or souls. In the absence of gold, the "Piper" settles on the town's trick-or-treaters, including Callie's brother, as his payment. The authors keep the action moving while allowing readers to sympathize not only with Callie but also with the fairy piper, wicked as his plans--and his past--are. A strong, resourceful girl, a Faery land where ethical questions are posed, and some fun poked at baby boomer parents make this an entertaining as well as meaty read. Following the story is a collection of "Brass Rat Songs," eerily hummable despite being presented without musical notation.



The Body of Christopher Creed  
By Carol Plum-Ucci

Christopher was the weirdo everybody picked on, the troubled soul no one bothered to befriend. When Christopher disappeared, some pointed to evidence that he simply left town, but others decided he had been murdered. The mystery of Christopher's disappearance is never solved, but several lives are irrevocably damaged in the aftermath. Torey tells the story a year later in a voice that is fresh and real, alternately humorous and devastatingly perceptive. He has learned that you should not judge anyone before making an effort to understand his or her situation. Though action and suspense abound, the book's highlights are its character studies. Even minor characters are well-drawn, and the town itself becomes a character with a distinct personality. Christopher himself, although he disappeared before the book's beginning, endears himself to readers as he is painted as a boy to be pitied but also to be admired.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Authors

**Crichton, Michael:** *Prey, Timeline, The Lost World, Disclosure, Jurassic Park, Sphere, Congo, The Great Train Robbery, The Terminal Man, The Andromeda Strain* (action, medical fiction, techno-thrillers, future history, failures of biotechnology)

**Gary Soto:** *Jesse, A Simple Plan, Buried Onions, Accidental Love* (daily trials and tribulations of Spanish-speaking Americans, feelings and experiences of most Americans)

**Sarah Dessen:** *That Summer, Someone Like You, Dreamland, The Truth About Forever, Along for the Ride, What Happened to Goodbye?* (contemporary, relationships, love, parents, friendships, self-esteem)

**Carrie Ryan:** *The Forest of Hands and Teeth, The Dead-Tossed Waves, The Dark and Hollow Places* (post-apocalyptic zombie novel series)

**Laure Anderson:** *Speak, Catalyst, Chains, Forge, Prom, Wintergirls*, (popular writer for teens)

**Meg Rosoff:** *How I Love Now, What I Was* (teen, coming of age)

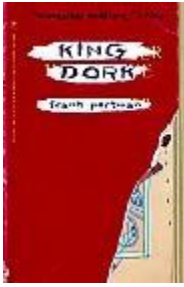
**Markus Zusak:** *The Book Thief*, (historical fiction) *I Am the Messenger, Underdogs*

**Linda Sue Park:** *A Long Walk to Water* (memoir detailing effects of Sudan drought and war)

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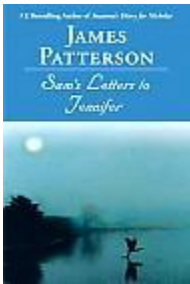
## **11<sup>th</sup> Grade Regents**

Students must read a minimum of one book, suggestions below.



King Dork  
By Frank Portman

From its subtle cover, featuring the title superimposed over the yellow lettering on a vintage red copy of *Catcher in the Rye*, to its intelligent, self-deprecating, opinionated narrator, Portman's novel is a humorous, scathing indictment of the current public education system. Sophomore Tom Henderson is bored with AP classes in which creating international foods and a "collage and *Catcher*" curriculum pass for academic instruction. Mature situations, casual sexual experiences, and allusions to Salinger suggest an older teen audience.



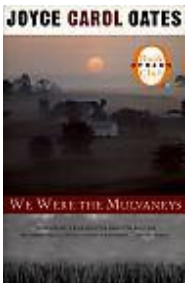
Sam's Letters to Jennifer  
By James Patterson

Jennifer, a *Chicago Tribune* columnist who's still mourning the death of her beloved husband, Danny, is jolted out of her lonely life when she receives news that her grandmother, Sam, has taken a fall and is now in a coma. Racing to be by her grandmother's bedside, Jennifer discovers a packet of letters at Sam's house, which are addressed to her. As Jennifer learns some shocking secrets about her grandmother, she finds herself falling under the spell of a handsome neighbor, Brendan. Patterson is infamous for surprising his readers, and the ending to this novel is unexpected, touching, and satisfying.



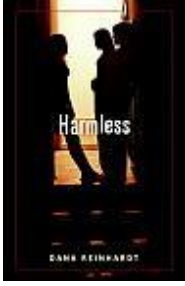
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn  
By Mark Twain

A seminal work of American Literature that still commands deep praise and elicits controversy, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is essential to the understanding of the American soul. Huckleberry Finn had a tough life with his drunk father until an adventure with Tom Sawyer changed everything. But when Huck's dad returns and kidnaps him, he must escape down the Mississippi river with runaway slave, Jim. They encounter trouble at every turn, and through it all the friends stick together - but can Huck and Tom free Jim from slavery once and for all?



We Were the Mulvaney  
By Joyce Carol Oates

A happy family, the Mulvaneys. After decades of marriage, Mom and Dad are still in love--and the proud parents of a star athlete, a class valedictorian, and a popular cheerleader. Home is an idyllic place called High Point Farm. But as we all know, Eden can't last forever. By the time all is said and done, a rape occurs, a daughter is exiled, much alcohol is consumed, and the farm is lost. *We Were the Mulvaney*s is populated with such richly observed and complex characters that we can't help but care about them, even as we wait for disaster to strike them down.



Harmless  
By Dana Reinhardt

What price a lie? When three girls make up a story about their whereabouts and are caught in the aftermath, the lies grow into something bigger than any of them could have imagined. Reinhardt's thought-provoking story avoids preachiness in part because of the girls' strong, complex characterizations.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Authors

**Jodi Picoult:** *My Sister's Keeper, Handle with Care, Sing You Home, Nineteen Minutes, Lone Wolf, House Rules, The Tenth Circle* (family relationships, love, contemporary)

**Chris Crutcher:** *Whale Talk, Deadline, Ironman, The Sledding Hill, The Secrets of Sarah Byrnes*, (controversial, contemporary, teens with serious problems, often mature themes, witty and humorous)

**Sharon Draper:** *Forged by Fire, Tears of a Tiger, Copper Sun, Darkness Before Dawn, The Battle of Jericho, Romiette and Julio* (contemporary, teen, grief, relationships, coping)

**Suzanne Collins:** *Catching Fire, Mockingjay*

**Paul Volponi:** *Black and White, Rikers High, Rooftop, Rucker Park Setup*, etc.

**Bill Bryson:** *At Home, I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, etc. (humorous essays)

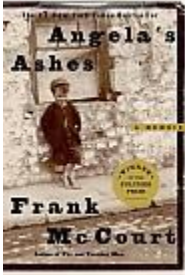
**Carlos Eire:** *Waiting for Snow in Havana, Learning to Die in Miami*-memoirs of a Cuban immigrant

**Erik Larson:** *The Devil in the White City, In the Garden of Beasts* (non-fiction, great writing and incident)

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Angela's Ashes  
By Frank McCourt

The author chronicles his impoverished childhood in Limerick, Ireland, in the 1930s and 1940s, describing his father's alcoholism and talent for storytelling; the challenges and tragedies his mother faced, including the loss of three children; and his early experiences in the Catholic church, and balances painful memories with humor.



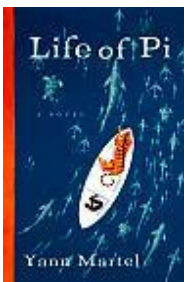
Brave New World  
By Aldous Huxley

Brave New World is a classic science fiction work that continues to be a significant warning to our society today. Picture his ironic portrait of people doped into Nirvana on "soma" (read Prozac and Zoloft), isolated and diverted in mindless trivial pursuits (read video games and internet surfing), oblivious to anything not directly related to themselves and totally unaware of the degree to which they are being socially, economically, and politically co-opted. Remember, says Huxley, brute force is not the only method governments can use to influence and control our hard-won freedoms and liberties; it can be done with over-indulgence and the deliberate promotion of apathy through self-absorption, as well.



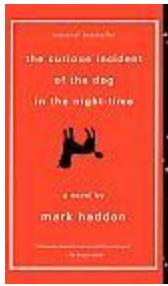
The Road  
By Cormac McCarthy

*The Road*, is set in a post-apocalyptic blight of gray skies that drizzle ash, a world in which all matter of wildlife is extinct, starvation is not only prevalent but nearly all-encompassing, and marauding bands of cannibals roam the environment. If this sounds oppressive and dispiriting, it is. So the final affirmation of hope is even more shocking as the boy takes all of his father's rage at the hopeless folly of man and lays it down, lifting up, in its place, the oddest of all things: faith.



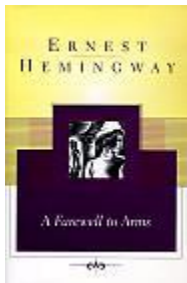
The Life of Pi  
By Yann Martel

Pi Patel, a young man from India, tells how he was shipwrecked and stranded in a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger for 227 days. This outlandish story is only the core of a deceptively complex three-part novel about, ultimately, memory as a narrative and about how we choose truths. In this harrowing yet inspiring tale, Martel demonstrates skills so well honed that the story appears to tell itself without drawing attention to the writing. The scenes flow together effortlessly, and the sharp observations of the young narrator keep the tale brisk and engaging.



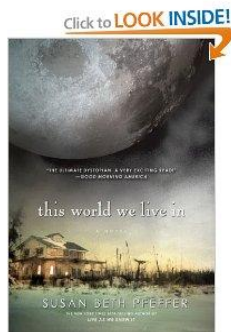
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time  
By Mark Haddon

Christopher Boone, the autistic narrator of this revelatory novel, relaxes by groaning and doing math problems in his head, eats red-but not yellow or brown-foods and screams when he is touched. Strange as he may seem, other people are far more of a conundrum to him, for he lacks the ability to sense what's going on in other people's heads. When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will track down the killer. This book could turn condescending, or exploitative, or overly sentimental, but Haddon navigates those dangers with a sureness of touch that makes *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* original, clever, and genuinely moving.



A Farewell to Arms  
By Ernest Hemingway

This is the story of Lieutenant Henry, an American, and Catherine Barkley, a British nurse. The two meet in Italy, and almost immediately Hemingway sets up the central tension of the novel: the tenuous nature of love in a time of war. Hemingway was not known for either unbridled optimism or happy endings, and *A Farewell to Arms*, offers neither. What it *does* provide is an unblinking portrayal of men and women behaving with grace under pressure, both physical and psychological, and somehow finding the courage to go on in the face of certain loss.



This World We Live In  
(The Last Survivors)  
By Susan Beth Pfeffer

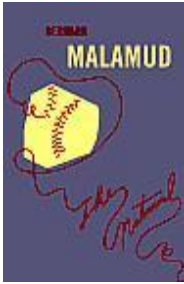
In the year that has passed since a meteor collided with the moon, Miranda's friends and neighbors have died, the landscape has frozen, and food has become increasingly scarce. The struggle to survive intensifies when Miranda's father and stepmother arrive with a baby and three strangers in tow. One of the newcomers is Alex Morales, and as Miranda's complicated feelings for him turn to love, his plans for his future thwart their relationship. Then a devastating tornado hits, and Miranda makes a decision that will change their lives forever.



East of Eden  
By John Steinbeck

East of Eden is a symbolic recreation of the biblical story of Cain and Abel woven into a history of California's Salinas Valley. Spanning the period between the American Civil War and the end of World War I, the novel highlights the conflicts of two generations of brothers. John Steinbeck knew and understood America and Americans better than any other writer of the twentieth century. A man whose work was equal to the vast social themes that drove him.





The Natural  
By Bernard Malamud

Roy Hobbs, the protagonist of *The Natural*, makes the mistake of pronouncing aloud his dream: to be the best there ever was. Such hubris, of course, invites divine intervention, but the brilliance of Bernard Malamud's novel is the second chance it offers its hero, elevating him--and his story--into the realm of myth. In his 1952 novel, Malamud comments on the role of the hero in the modern world, "Without heroes we're all plain people and don't know how far we can go."



The Glass Castle  
By Jeanette Walls

Walls, who spent years trying to hide her childhood experiences, allows the story to spill out in this remarkable recollection of growing up. From her current perspective as a contributor to MSNBC online, she remembers the poverty, hunger, jokes, and bullying she and her siblings endured, and she looks back at her parents: her flighty, self-indulgent mother, a Pollyanna unwilling to assume the responsibilities of parenting, and her father, troubled, brilliant Rex, whose ability to turn his family's downward-spiraling circumstances into adventures allowed his children to excuse his imperfections until they grew old enough to understand what he had done to them--and to himself. His grand plans to build a home for the family never evolved: the hole for the foundation of the "The Glass Castle," as the dream house was called, became the family garbage dump, and, of course, a metaphor for Rex Walls' life. Shocking, sad, and occasionally bitter, this gracefully written account speaks candidly, yet with surprising affection, about parents and about the strength of family ties--for both good and ill.



I Am Legend  
By Richard Matheson

Robert Neville, the last living man on an Earth in which every other man, woman, and child has become a vampire, struggles to survive, scavenging for food and supplies and desperately searching for other survivors and trying to avoid the evil that lurks in the shadows.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Authors

**John Grisham:** *A Time to Kill, Street Lawyer, The Confession, The Innocent Man, The Client* (popular legal thrillers, crime fiction, football)

**Stephen King:** *It, The Stand, Salem's Lot, Misery, Cujo, Pet Sematary, The Dead Zone, 11/22/63* (contemporary horror, suspense, science-fiction, time travel and fantasy)

**Nicholas Sparks:** *The Notebook, A Walk to Remember, Message in a Bottle, True Believer, The Rescue, A Bend in the Road* (love, tragedy, fate, Christian faith, international bestsellers)

**George R.R. Martin:** *A Game of Thrones, A Clash of Kings, A Storm of Swords* (from *A Song of Ice and Fire* series, popular TV series about a forgotten time when lords and ladies, soldiers, sorcerers and assassins battle for supremacy against a harsh landscape.)

**Junot Diaz:** *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, This is How Your Lose Her, Drown* (young Dominican American writer)

**Rebecca Skloot:** *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (non-fiction)

**Alice Hoffman:** *Dovekeepers, River King, The Foretelling*

**Garth Stein:** *The Art of Racing in the Rain* (good story about life and wisdom from a dog's point of view) *A Map of True Places*

**Laura Hillenbrand:** *Unbroken*