

Incoming 9th Grader Summer Reading List

I Am the Messenger by Marcus Zusak

Nineteen-year-old cabbie Ed Kennedy has little in life; his alcoholic dad died, and he shares his life and apartment with a smelly old dog. But, after he stops a bank robbery, he begins to anonymously receive playing cards in the mail which instruct him to be at a certain address at a certain time. In the process he saves random people from various dangers.

The Year of Secret Assignments by Jaclyn Moriarty

A tenth Grade English teacher attempts to unite feuding schools by launching a pen-pal project.

Keeping the Moon by Sarah Dessen

Colie's fitness-celebrity mom (a female version of Richard Simmons) long ago motivated her to lose 45.5 pounds, but Colie feels just as insecure as she did when she was overweight, and she is a pariah at school. During Colie's 15th summer, her mother goes on an extended tour of Europe, and Colie is sent to outlandish Aunt Mira in Colby, N.C. There Colie is influenced by a singular group of mentors: the young women next door, Isabel and Morgan, who give Colie a makeover as well as a waitressing job.

The Batboy by Mike Lupica

(From the Inside Flap): " Brian Dudley is living every baseball kid's dream. He is a batboy for his hometown Major League team. And he's finally seeing the game the way his big-leaguer dad see it: from the inside. But it's more than that for Brian. His Dad loved the game so much that he chose it over Brian and his mom. Now Brian believes his new job will finally bring them closer together. Then Hank Bishop, Brian's baseball hero, returns to the Tigers for the comeback of a lifetime, and Brian knows his summer could possibly get any better. Until Hank Bishop shows his true colors...and they're not so different from his dad's."

The C.S.I Effect by Katherine Ramsland

(From the back of the book): " Katherine Ramsland goes beyond the basics of forensic science to cover the latest breakthroughs and cutting-edge techniques in crime scene investigation—by delving into the incredible truths behind the hit C.S.I. television franchise. Inspired by episodes from the fact-based shows themselves, she illustrates the growing use of computers in forensics—from crime reenactments to age-progression procedures.

The Boy Who Dared: a novel based on the true story of a Hitler youth by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

(from the inside paenel): " Just as the Nazis are rising to power, Helmuth Hü bener, a German schoolboy, is caught up in all the swashbuckling bravado of his time...In the beginning his

patriotism is unwavering. But every day the rights of people all over Germany are diminishing. Jews are threatened and their businesses are being destroyed. The truth has been censored, and danger lurks everywhere. Anybody can turn on you. The world has turned upside down: Patriotism means denouncing others, love means hate, and speaking out means treason. How much longer can Helmuth keep silent? Told in flashback, this story magnificently explores the life of a heroic German youth who dared to stand up against the Nazi regime.”

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac by Gabrielle Zevin

(from the front flap): “ If Naomi had picked tails, she would have won the coin toss. She wouldn't have had to go back for the yearbook camera, and she wouldn't have hit her head on the steps. She wouldn't have woken up in an ambulance with amnesia. She certainly would have remembered her boyfriend, Ace. She might even have remembered why she fell in love with him in the first place. She would understand why her best friend, Will, keeps calling her ‘ Chief.’ She'd know about her mom's new family. She'd know about her dad's fiancée. She never would have met James, the boy with the questionable past and the even fuzzier future, who tells her he once wanted to kiss her. She wouldn't have wanted to kiss him back. But Naomi picked heads.”

Flight by Sherman Alexie

(from the front flap): “ The story of Flight’ s hero begins as he’ s about to commit a massive act of violence. At the moment of decision, he finds himself shot back through time to resurface in the body of an FBI agent during the civil rights era, where he sees why ‘ Hell is a Red River, Idaho, in the 1970s.’ Red River is only the first stop in an eye opening trip through moments in American history..in a charged search for his true identity.”