

## **HUMOR**

- The Bear Went Over the Mountain  
by William Kotzwinkle\*
- Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott\*\*
- Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole\*\*\*
- +Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim  
by David Sedaris\*
- +Flashman: A Novel by George MacDonald Fraser\*\*
- +Going Postal by Terry Pratchett\*\*
- The Inimitable Jeeves by P.G. Wodehouse\*\*
- Little Big Man by Thomas Berger\*\*
- +Native Tongue by Carl Hiaasen\*\*
- +A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson\*

## **CULTURAL CONTEXTS**

- Almost a Woman by Esmeralda Santiago\*\*
- Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid\*
- Flight by Sherman Alexie\*
- The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy\*\*
- +The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan\*\*
- Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha by Roddy Doyle\*
- A Pale View of the Hills by Kazuo Ishiguro\*\*\*
- The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiayama\*\*\*
- The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down  
by Anne Fadiman\*\*
- The Women of Brewster Place by Gloria Naylor \*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

- American Pastoral (Pulitzer) by Philip Roth\*\*\*
- +Angle of Repose (Pulitzer) by Wallace Stegner\*\*\*
- +Bel Canto (PEN/Faulkner Award) by Ann Patchett\*\*
- +The Caine Mutiny (Pulitzer) by Herman Wouk\*\*
- How I Live Now (Guardian Prize) by Meg Rosoff\*
- Independence Day (Pulitzer) by Richard Ford\*\*
- +John Adams (Pulitzer) by David McCullough\*\*
- Life of Pi (Booker) by Yann Martel\*\*
- Snow Falling on Cedars (PEN-Faulkner Award)  
by David Guterson\*\*
- A Thousand Acres (Pulitzer) by Jane Smiley\*\*

## **CLASSICS**

- Ballad of the Sad Café and Other Stories  
by Carson McCullers\*\*
- The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky\*\*\*
- +Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy\*\*\*
- +Mill on the Floss by George Eliot\*\*\*
- +Moby Dick by Herman Melville\*\*\*
- On the Road by Jack Kerouac\*\*
- Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man  
by James Joyce\*\*\*
- Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen\*\*
- War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy\*\*\*
- Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte\*\*

## **OTHER GOOD READS**

- +The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay  
by Michael Chabon\*\*
- +Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler\*\*
- Exodus by Leon Uris\*
- +Family Pictures by Sue Miller\*\*
- The Five People You Meet in Heaven  
by Mitch Albom\*
- Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels\*\*\*
- +The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende\*\*
- +How to be Good by Nick Hornby\*\*
- The Known World by Edward P. Jones\*\*\*
- +The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver\*\*
- Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier\*\*
- Rule of the Bone by Russell Banks \*\*
- Sophie's Choice by William Styron\*\*
- +We Were the Mulvaney's by Joyce Carol Oates\*\*
- +The World According to Garp by John Irving\*\*

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# WELLESLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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## SUMMER READING 2009

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### **Required titles:**

- Honors 9<sup>th</sup> grade:** Rocket Boys by Homer Hickam and ten poems
- Honors 10<sup>th</sup> grade:** Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck and ten poems
- Honors 11<sup>th</sup> grade:** 1984 by George Orwell and ten poems
- Honors 12<sup>th</sup> grade:** A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving and 10 poems
- Humanities:** Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri and ten poems

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### **A Note to Parents and Students:**

Students enrolled in Honors classes will read one required book and two additional books of their choice. Advanced College Preparatory students are required to read two books of their choice, and College Preparatory students one book of their choice. Our goal is to provide our students with the opportunity to read books of interest to them, hoping that experience will instill in them a life-long love of reading. The following list suggests some titles that may be of interest. To read descriptions of the books on this list, visit:

<http://www.wellesley.mec.edu/whs/pages/engdept/sumreading2008.htm>

In addition, this year we look forward to welcoming Robert Pinsky, former U.S. Poet Laureate, as our Book in Common writer. In preparation for his visit, during which he will engage students in the Favorite Poem project, we ask that ALL students read any ten poems and the narratives that accompany them from the collection Americans' Favorite Poems, edited by Pinsky and widely available. Students can also find and view ten poem videos online at the Favorite Poem Project Web site: <http://www.favoritepoem.org/>

**Key: The number of \* indicates level of difficulty, with \* being the least difficult  
+ = any work by this author is recommended.**

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### **OVERCOMING OBSTACLES**

- +Buffalo Soldier by Chris Bohjalian\*\*
- Eleven Seconds by Travis Roy \*
- The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls\*\*
- +A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers\*\*
- Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos\*
- A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines\*
- +My Sister's Keeper by Jody Picoult\*\*
- The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky\*
- +Speak by Laurie Anderson\*
- +This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff\*\*

### **HISTORICAL FICTION**

- The Astonishing Life of Octavia Nothing: Vol. 1  
The Pox Party by M.T. Anderson\*\*

- Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean Auel\*\*
- Cold Mountain by Charles Fraser\*\*
- Going After Cacciato by Tim O'Brien\*
- Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell \*\*
- Jubilee by Margaret Walker \*\*
- The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara\*\*
- +The King Must Die by Mary Renault\*\*
- +Master and Commander by Patrick O'Brian\*\*
- +The Source by James Michener\*\*

### **SPORTS**

- The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis\*\*
- +Only a Game by Bill Littlefield\*\*
- The Education of a Coach by David Halberstam\*
- Faithful by Stewart O'Nan and Stephen King \*
- Lance Armstrong's War by Daniel Boyle\*
- +My Losing Season by Pat Conroy\*\*
- +The Natural by Bernard Malamud\*\*
- Shoeless Joe by W.P. Kinsella\*
- Values of the Game by Bill Bradley\*\*
- Women Who Win: Female Athletes on Being the Best ed. by Lisa Taggart\*

### **MYSTERIES, SUSPENSE, AND ADVENTURE**

- +The Crocodile Bird by Ruth Rendell\*\*
- +Devices and Desires by P.D. James\*\*
- The Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey\*\*
- Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing\*
- +Gaudy Night by Dorothy Sayers\*\*
- +A Great Deliverance by Elizabeth George\*\*
- +Little Drummer Girl by John LeCarre\*\*
- +People of Darkness by Tony Hillerman\*
- +The Scold's Bridle by Minette Walters\*\*
- +The Widening Gyre by Robert Parker\*

### **SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY**

- +Childhood's End by Arthur C. Clark\*\*
- Dune by Frank Herbert \*
- +Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card\*
- +The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood\*\*
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams\*
- Mists of Avalon by Miriam Zimmer Bradley\*\*
- The Once and Future King by T.H. White\*\*

- +Sphere by Michael Crichton\*
- +Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert Heinlein\*\*
- +The Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula LeGuin\*\*

### **NONFICTION**

- Alive by Piers Paul Read\*\*
- Common Ground by J. Anthony Lucas\*\*
- +The Guns of August by Barbara Tuchman\*\*
- Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser\*\*
- In Cold Blood by Truman Capote\*\*
- In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick\*\*\*
- +Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich\*\*
- The Orchid Thief by Susan Orlean\*\*
- Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand\*\*
- Silent Spring by Rachel Carson\*\*

### **BIOGRAPHIES, AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, AND MEMOIRS**

- Black Ice by Lorene Cary\*
- Girl, Interrupted by Susanna Kaysen\*\*
- Growing Up by Russell Baker\*\*
- A Hope in the Unseen by Ron Susskind \*
- Hunger for Memory by Richard Rodriguez\*\*
- Letters from Nuremberg by Christopher J. Dodd\*\*
- Of Beatles and Angels-A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard by Masar Asgedom\*
- A River Runs Through It by Norman MacLean\*\*
- The Road from Coorain by Jill Ker Conway\*
- Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck\*

### **POLITICS**

- Advise and Consent by Allen Drury\*\*
- Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama\*\*
- Faith of my Fathers by John McCain\*\*
- +From Beirut to Jerusalem by Thomas Friedman\*\*\*
- The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian\*
- Living History by Hillary Rodham Clinton\*\*
- +Master of the Senate by Robert Caro\*\*\*
- No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt by Doris Kearns Goodwin\*\*\*
- Parting of the Waters: America in the King Years-1954-1963 by Taylor Branch\*\*
- +The Race by Richard North Patterson\*\*