

Putnam Valley High School
9th Grade Summer Reading List
Summer 2008

Summaries listed below are from Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble

All students entering 9th grade English are to read any two of the following (Honors students must read three):

Snow in August by Pete Hamill

Set in a working-class Brooklyn neighborhood in 1947, this poignant tale revolves around an eleven-year-old Irish Catholic boy named Michael Devlin and Rabbi Judah Hirsch, a refugee from Prague. From their initial chance encounter one Saturday morning to the awe they share at first setting eyes on the grounds of Ebbets Field, Hamill brings to life the richness and complexity of this most remarkable friendship.

Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid

Annie John and her passage into young adulthood – the tumultuous love of her mother and their gradual separation is a story that will speak to listeners of all ages.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

It is a novel about a young girl, her family and friends, and their life in the slum section of Brooklyn in the early years of the twentieth century.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

A young governess finds romance, mystery, and heartbreak when she accepts a position in the home of the brooding and arrogant Mr. Rochester.

A Girl with the Pearl Earring by Tracey Chevalier

The life of 16-year-old Griet is transformed forever when she goes to work as a maid in the home of Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, and catches the eye of the famous artist.

Bone From a Dry Sea by Peter Dickinson

In two parallel stories, a young female member of a prehistoric tribe becomes instrumental in advancing her people, and a present day girl visits her paleontologist father on a dig in Africa where they discover important fossil remains.

Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

Chronicles the early attempts by humans to colonize an inhabited Mars by transforming the Red planet into a mirror image of the world they left behind.

Flipped by Wendelin VanDraanen

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Government regulations limit families to two children each, so Luke, an illegal third-born, must live his life in secret, hidden in his family's farmhouse.

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes by Chris Crutcher

Overweight high school student Eric Calhoun tries to answer his friend Sarah Byrne's dramatic cry for help.

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez

A collection of short stories that vividly chronicles a Dominican family's new life in the Bronx. The book focuses on the four Garcia daughters' rebellions against their immigrant elders.

The Hobbit by JRR 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.

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

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

Geeks: How Two Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho by John Katz

Armed with nothing more than big brains and a bit of luck, two misfit teens flee their stifling Idaho hometown for Chicago in this nonfiction work. An oddly touching page-turner about social outcasts using technology to wriggle free of dead-end lives.

Eragon (Inheritance Trilogy #1) by Christopher Paolini

In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Butterfly Revolution by William Butler

Welcome to High Pines Summer Camp for Boys. There is hiking, swimming, canoeing--and a revolution led by General Frank. He promises change for the better, but little by little, he begins to change, and the revolution turns into a nightmare....

Turtle Moon by Alice Hoffman

Verity, home to more divorced women from New York than any other town in Florida, is where Lucy moves with her son Keith to get away from her ex-husband. But when Keith runs off with a baby, after the child's mother is murdered, the stage is set for mayhem, thrills, and unexpected romance.

Blood Secret by Kathryn Lasky

Fourteen-year-old Jerry Luna, mute since her mother's disappearance, is sent to her great-great Aunt Constanza's house, where she discovers a trunk that draws her into the world of her ancestors during the Spanish Inquisition.

Curse of the Blue Tattoo by Louis A. Meyer

In 1803, after being exposed as a girl and forced to leave her ship, Jacky Faber finds herself attending school in Boston, where, instead of learning to be a lady, she battles her snobbish classmates, roams the city in search of adventure, and learns to ride a horse.