

**Putnam Valley High School  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List  
Summer 2009**

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

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

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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....

*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.

*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.

***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.

***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.

***Girl with the Pearl Earring, A*** 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.

***Hobbit, The.*** 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.

***How Reading Changed My Life*** by Anna Quindlen

American author Anna Quindlen discusses how her love of reading has impacted her life from childhood through adulthood.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***Member of the Wedding, The*** by Carson McCullers

Frankie Addams, a motherless twelve-year-old raised by her father and the family's African-American cook, struggles with conflicting feelings about her brother's upcoming wedding.

***Radioactive Boy Scout, The*** by Ken Silverstein

The radioactive boy scout : the frightening true story of a whiz kid and his homemade nuclear reactor.

***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.

***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.

***Tree Grows in Brooklyn, A*** 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.

***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.

***Twisted*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.