**Summer Reading List 2015**

**Going Into 11th Grade**

*The Zookeeper’s Wife: A War Story* by Ackerman, Diane  
Lexile NP

Ackerman works from the diary of Antonina Zabinski to present a dramatic, true story based on a little-known chapter from Nazi Poland. Not only was Hitler interested in human genetics but also the purity of animal breeds. At the Warsaw Zoo, Antonina and her director husband struggle with wartime shortages, caring for the animals, their own family’s needs, and the hundreds of Jews hidden at the zoo.

*Long Drive Home* by Allison, Will  
Lexile NP

In this emotional and psychological thriller, a father is driving his six-year-old daughter home when a young driver provokes him to “road rage,” and a fatal crash ensues. Will his subsequent lies “fix” the problems that rapidly accumulate?

*Wintergirls* by Anderson, Laurie Halse  
Lexile 730

Anderson takes us into the mind of an anorexic teenager. This is a haunting story about Lia’s desire to be the thinnest girl in school, her struggle with anorexia, and her path to recovery.

*I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Angelou, Maya  
Lexile 1070

Maya Angelou chronicles her early life, focusing on her childhood in 1930s rural Arkansas, including her rape at the age of five, her subsequent years of muteness, and the strength she gained from her grandmother.

*Pride and Prejudice* by Austen, Jane  
Lexile 1070

Elizabeth and Jane Bennet overcome obstacles to their happiness with Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley in this comedy of manners set in early nineteenth-century England.

*The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Barbery, Muriel  
Lexile NP

Laugh out loud at the unlikely friendship between a secretly educated concierge, a precocious twelve-year-old girl with a philosophical bent, and an older Japanese gentleman in a Paris apartment.

*The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession* by Bartlett, Allison Hoover  
Lexile NP

This true crime story discloses the world of rare book dealers and the mind of a serial book thief as it follows the detective who tracks the mysterious and obsessive culprit.

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Beah, Ishmael  
Lexile 920

Twelve-year-old Ishmael first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later he is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. Alex Award 2008

*Shift* by Bradbury, Jennifer  
Lexile 770

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.
**Summer Reading List 2015**

**Going Into 11th Grade**

*Caleb's Crossing* by Brooks, Geraldine

Lexile NP

Bethia Mayfield befriends Caleb, the son of a Wampanoag chieftain, as she grows up near Martha's Vineyard in the mid-seventeenth century, and watches as her minister father attempts to convert the Native Americans, but the fates of the children are tied together as Bethia's father encourages the education of Caleb, a privilege Bethia has always wished for.

*Parrot and Olivier in America* by Carey, Peter

Lexile NP

An imaginative re-invention of the French aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville's 1830 visit to America, with rich description, strong characters and amusing events.

*The Long Goodbye* by Chandler, Raymond

Lexile NP

A classic “hard-boiled” detective story where Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. Edgar Award 1955

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Chbosky, Stephen

Lexile 720

Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the dilemmas of growing up through a collection of letters he sends to an unknown receiver.

*Dante's Divine Comedy* by Chwast, Seymour

Lexile NP

Chwast retells Dante’s Divine Comedy in a graphic format. All three stages of Dante’s epic poem are chronicled here in a visually appealing, humorous manner. The illustrations depict the details and complexity of this classic tale.

*Ready Player One* by Cline, Ernest

Lexile NP

In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS. When Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands of others -- including those willing to commit murder -- in order to claim a prize of massive fortune. Alex Award 2012

*Ballistics: Poems* by Collins, Billy

Lexile NP

A notable collection of verse from the U.S. Poet Laureate, expressing love, joy, and death in his inimitable language.

*The Book of Lost Things* by Connolly, John

Lexile NP

After the death of his mother, David retreats to his attic bedroom where the books on his shelf begin whispering to him, dragging him into another world. Alex Award 2007

*The Passage* by Cronin, Justin

Lexile NP

In a dystopian future, a virus found in a South American jungle has been used to create a super soldier with great strength and healing abilities. The virus causes an epidemic, and infected people become bloodthirsty monsters. Normal humans are hiding in fortresses trying to survive.
Summer Reading List 2015

**Going Into 11th Grade**

*Anna in the Tropics* by Cruz, Nilo

Lexile NP

In this play set in 1929 Florida in a Cuban-American cigar factory, a new lector unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners.

*Wither* by DeStefano, Lauren

Lexile 800

Sixteen-year-old Rhine Ellery has four years to live. Because of a botched effort to create a perfect race, all females live only to age twenty and males to age twenty-five. On the cusp of her seventeenth birthday, Rhine attempts to flee. What she finds is a society spiraling out of control. *Series*

*Leaving Yuba City: New and Selected Poems* by Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee

Lexile NP

Little stories about life in India and the Indian immigrant experience in America told through accessible and enlightening poetry.

*Little Brother* by Doctorow, Cory

Lexile 900

Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

*Homer & Langley* by Doctorow, E. L.

Lexile NP

Based on the true lives of the very unusual Collyer brothers of New York City, this novel allows the reader a glimpse into the hoarding existence of anonymity of the two reclusive brothers. Both a commentary of the 1940s and, moreover, a tale of human psychology, the story is beautifully written in the voice of one of the eccentric brothers.

*Room: A Novel* by Donoghue, Emma

Lexile NP

Five-year-old Jack has lived his whole life entirely within the walls of a small room where he and his mother are held prisoner. The imaginary world that she creates for him makes it bearable . . . for a while.

*Zeitoun* by Eggers, Dave

Lexile NP

A true account of a family caught between America’s war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Following the chaos of the storm, Zeitoun travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors until the day armed men suddenly burst into his home.

*City of Veils* by Ferraris, Zoe

Lexile NP

In this fascinating mystery, policeman Osama Ibrahim, forensic scientist Katya Hijazi, and Bedouin guide Nayir Sharqi investigate the murder of a young Muslim woman washed up on the shores of Jeddah beach. *Series*

*Kamchatka* by Figueras, Marcelo

Lexile NP

After the 1976 coup in Argentina, ten-year-old Harry uses his rich imagination, the fantasy territory of “Kamchatka” from the game RISK, and the boundless, endearing love of his family to deal with the chaos in their lives as his parents must hide from the military junta because of their political activities.
Summer Reading List 2015

Going Into 11th Grade

**Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close** by Foer, Jonathan Safran  
Lexile 940

Oskar Schell is an inventor, Francophile, tambourine player, Shakespearean actor, jeweler, pacifist. He is nine-years-old; and he is on an urgent, secret search through the five boroughs of New York to find the lock that fits a mysterious key belonging to his father, who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

**Fall of Giants** by Follett, Ken  
Lexile NP

A historical fiction epic that follows the lives of five interrelated families – American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh – around the time of World War I.

**Chronicle of a Death Foretold** by Garcia Marquez, Gabriel  
Lexile 1270

Nearly thirty years later, a man returns to town in an attempt to discover the truth behind the jumbled murder of Santiago Nasar.

**Outliers: The Story of Success** by Gladwell, Malcolm  
Lexile 1080

Gladwell examines the background of extremely successful people to explore the common traits leading to their success. He compares birth date, birthplace, community values, family, and other factors to draw his conclusions.

**Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter** by Grahame-Smith, Seth  
Lexile 960

Many people know about Abe Lincoln’s political successes, but few know that after his mother was killed by a vampire Old Abe became a ruthless vampire hunter. This “biography,” packed full of historical facts, will not disappoint readers who like a good horror story.

**The Fault in Our Stars** by Green, John  
Lexile 850

Sixteen year old Hazel, who has cancer, meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and as they fall in love they both wonder how they will be remembered.

**The Autobiography of Malcolm X** by Haley, Alex  
Lexile 1120

Malcolm X, the Black Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells his life story to veteran writer and journalist Alex Haley.

**A Prayer for Owen Meany** by Irving, John  
Lexile 1050

 Tells the story of Owen Meany who believes he is God's instrument and his friendship with John Wheelwright; beginning at age eleven when Owen hits a foul ball that kills John's mother during a Little League game in 1953.

**The Shining** by King, Stephen  
Lexile 840

A summer resort comes to life in the off-season when the Torrances arrive to take over as winter caretakers and five-year-old Danny begins having horrific visions.
Frank McCourt 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.

A circus known as Le Cirque des Reves features two illusionists, Celia and Marco, who are unknowingly competing in a game to which they have been irrevocably bound by their mercurial masters, and as the two fall deeply and passionately in love with each other, their masters intervene with dangerous consequences.

Four sisters--Rose, Daisy, Laurel, and Lily--deal with their relationships with each other as well as boyfriends while trying to figure out their futures, cope with loss, and make difficult decisions.

In 1945 Spain, the young son of an antique-book dealer searches for more books by Julian Carax, an author he has recently discovered, and finds that everything Carax has ever written has been destroyed--and that his search has put his friends and family in danger.