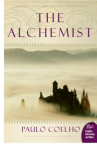


# Summer Reading Titles, 2010



*Brought to you by the Lyman Memorial High School Media Center*

## **\*The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho**



Have you ever read a book, that when asked to explain it, all you could ever come up with is 'it's a special book'? Well, that's how I feel about this one! And many more critics feel the same way. This is a book you can read in a day or two—only 176 pages, but what a wonderful tale it is— one which will leave you feeling all warm inside. On the surface it's a story of a shepherd boy out to journey the world in search of treasure... but it's really so much more. It encourages you to have faith in yourself and others, to follow your dreams no matter what. It is a fable of wisdom and destiny, of magic and tenderness. It makes you go aaahhhh. Read it to understand what I mean. You won't regret it! If you won't take my word for it— how about these little facts for you: *The Alchemist* was originally written in Portuguese and has since been translated into 56 languages, winning the Guinness World Record for most translated book by a living author. It has sold more than 65 million copies in more than 150 becoming one of the best-selling books in history! \* *Recommended by Ms. Escott*

## **\*Alive, Piers Paul Read**



The true story of the Peruvian rugby players who survived a plane crash in the mountains of the Andes and learned to survive the elements and how they eventually had to procure their own rescue...--\**Recommended by Mr. Fabry*

## **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, Ishmael Beah**

The survivor of a dirty war in starkest Africa recounts his transition from 12-year-old orphan to killing machine. This story by a children's-rights advocate recounts his experiences as a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the '90s, during one of the most brutal and violent civil wars in recent history

## **Accidents of Nature, Harriet McBryde Johnson**

Having always prided herself on blending in with "normal" people despite her cerebral palsy, seventeen-year-old Jean begins to question her role in the world while attending a summer camp for children with disabilities.

## **Adoration of Jenna Fox, Mary E. Pearson**

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

## **An Abundance of Katherines, John Green**

Former child prodigy Colin, faced with the real-world uselessness of his genius for trivia and word games, has no idea what to do with his life. Recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, he sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

**Are U 4 Real, Sara Kadefars**

Alex, a picked-on male ballet dancer, and Kyla, a popular party girl, meet in an online chatroom. They discover how much they have in common and after helping each other deal with teenage life. Kyla and Alex, two very different sixteen-year-olds, decide to meet in person, with their lives unraveling around them.

**Audrey, Wait, Robin Benway**

Audrey Cuttler's life is turned upside down when her ex-boyfriend's song about their break up hits the top of the charts, making Audrey a prime target for the paparazzi, who are documenting her every move, hoping to catch her messing up, and causing her nothing but misery.

**Backtracked, Pedro de Alcantara**

While playing a dangerous subway prank, a fifteen-year-old slacker, who lives a comfortable life in Brooklyn, falls through a time-travel vortex and is transported to different time periods in twentieth-century New York City, where he learns firsthand about hardship.

**Battle of the Bands, K.L. Denman**

Jay, Kelvin, and Cia are The Lunar Ticks, a dedicated band, convinced they are on their way to the top. Practicing for an upcoming Battle of the Bands that will match them against a neighboring high school's standout band, Indigo Daze, will they be a wild success, or break under pressure?

**\*The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath**



“The Bell Jar” is a stunningly compelling portrayal of a young woman descending into mental instability. If "Catcher in the Rye" appealed to you, but perhaps also annoyed you - read this! It is far more honest and far less whiny. Plath wrote this novel based largely on her own breakdown while interning one summer at a magazine in NYC in the 1950's. It is a quick read, but the sadness and isolation of the protagonist will resonate with you for weeks after you've finished.—\*Recommended by Mrs. Ayer

**\*Best American Non-required Reading, Dave Eggers**



...contains, well, like the title says...Eggers and a crew of high school students from the San Francisco area spend at least one day a week meeting and discussing the "best" new short stories, poems, graphic stories (aka comics), articles, and any other type of reading materials published within that year. Each year brings a new volume packed with the most thought-provoking, humorous, and enjoyable literature - all of which are pretty much guaranteed NOT to show up on your

"required" reading list...though here it is, so what does that mean? Don't feel you need to get the latest edition to get the enjoyment either - used book stores often have past years at a lower price! Also recommended: Best American Short Stories, Best American Essays, and Best American Poetry.—\*Recommended by Mrs. Ayer

**Black Box**, *Julie Schumacher*

Elena and her older sister Dora are opposites—Elena is quiet and stoic; Dora is funny and unpredictable—but they are still best friends. When Dora is hospitalized for depression and her parents want to keep it a secret, Elena tries to cope with her own anxiety and feelings of guilt that she is determined to conceal from outsiders.

**Bonechiller**, *Graham McNamee*

Four high school students face off against a soul-stealing beast that has been making young people disappear in their small Ontario, Canada, town for centuries.

**\*The Book Thief**, *Markus Zusak*



An amazing and totally different view of the Holocaust... through the eyes of Death as the narrator. Absolutely mesmerizing to follow Leisel through her life. And if the length of this book seems intimidating, don't let it be. It's worth every minute- and you can always listen to the audio version on your ipod or in your car- that's what I did. I highly recommend trying an audio book- and the narrator's voice for this one is excellent.

\*Recommended by Ms. Escott

**Catalyst**, *Laurie Halse Anderson*

Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

**Catching Fire**, *Suzanne Collins*

By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion.

**Chanda's Secrets**, *Allan Stratton*

16-year old Chanda, living in South Africa, has family and friends afflicted with AIDS who, because of shame and fear, keep their disease a secret. Chanda faces shame and stigma in her bid to help friends and family members break the cycle of secrecy.

**Comet's Curse**, *Dom Testa*

Desperate to save the human race after a comet's deadly particles devastate the adult population, scientists create a ship that will carry a crew of 251 teenagers to a home in a distant solar system.

**Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime**, *Mark Haddon*

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

**Donut Days**, *Lara Zeilin*

During a camp-out promoting the opening of a donut shop in a small Minnesota town, sixteen-year-old Emma, an aspiring journalist, begins to connect an ongoing pollution investigation with the turmoil in the evangelical Christian church where her parents are pastors.

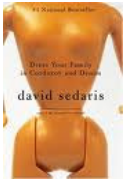
**Double Helix**, *Nancy Werlin*

Eighteen-year-old Eli discovers a shocking secret about his life and his family while working for a Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose specialty is genetic engineering.

**Double Identity**, *Margaret Peterson Haddix*

Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

**\*Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim**, *David Sedaris*



If you like laughing out loud when you read, then trying one of David Sedaris' books is a must. I haven't read "Me Talk Pretty One Day" yet, but I plan to this summer. I just can't get enough of his sharp and biting humor. Although his life is nothing like mine, his autobiographical sketches always have an element of the universal, so that any listener can relate to his experiences on some level. One nice thing about his writing is that each chapter can stand on its own- perfect for dipping in and out of throughout the summer. He reads his own books on audio versions, and of course the author's voice, particularly with comedy, is best. So.... Put on your headphones and enjoy! And if you're really lucky, you might get to see him perform a stand up routine live some day! What a treat that would be. - *Recommended by Ms. Escott*

**\*The Dwarves**, *by Markus Heitz*



I completely enjoyed this book. It is full of amazing characters that are caught in a classic struggle of good versus evil. It is not predictable and as a reader, you feel transported into another realm that feels totally believable. I highly recommend this book to those who enjoy fantasy. I'd like to give a special thanks to Ryan Bergeron for recommending it to me!

*\* Recommended by Mrs. Angell*

**Elsewhere**, *Gabrielle Charbonnet*

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

**Epic**, *Conor Kostick*

Erik lives in a dual world: part primitive colony, part high-tech fantasy computer game called Epic. The game has real-life repercussions, and Erik must convince his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

**Eyes of the Emperor**, *Graham Salisbury*

Eddy Okubo lies about his age and joins the United States Army in Honolulu I 1941. Soon after he enlists, the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. Now Eddy has been enlisted by the army to go on a secret mission, where his patriotism, loyalty, and courage are tested in unbelievable ways.

**Fancy White Trash**, *Marjetta Geerling*

15-year old Abby Savage hopes that her five rules for falling in love will keep her from making the same mistakes as her mother and two older sisters while she also tries to help her best friend Cody admit that he is gay, and decide how she really feels about Cody's older brother, Jackson.

**Flame Tree**, *Richard Lewis*

Just before the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, an anti-American Muslim group gains power in Java, and Isaac, the twelve-year-old son of American missionary doctors, finds his world turned upside-down.

**Friday Night Lights**, *H.G. Bissinger*

In Texas, high school football has a rabid hold over the faithful. This true-story novel follows the 1988 season of the Permian Panthers, a high school football team in Odessa, Texas, exploring the lives of the players and the impact of the championship team on the small town.

**Geek Charming**, *Robin Palmer*

Dylan, the most popular girl in school, is dating the most popular guy, and people will trip over themselves to help her out. But when this rich and spoiled high school senior is coerced into doing a documentary film with Josh, one of the school's geeks, she slowly realizes that the world does not revolve around her.

**Girlfriend Material**, *Melissa Kantor*

Kate's hopes for a summer romance are dashed when her mother announces plans to stay with wealthy friends in Cape Cod as a ploy to make Kate's father jealous, but when Kate is introduced to Adam things begin to look brighter.

**Give Up the Ghost**, *Megan Crewe*

Sixteen-year-old Cass's only friends are her dead sister and the school ghosts who feed her gossip that she uses to make students face up to their bad behavior, but when a popular boy asks for her help, she begins to reach out to the living again.

**\*The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls**



Quite possibly the best memoir I have ever read. I was completely captivated by the struggles the author experienced as a young girl living with dysfunctional, nomadic parents. I truly appreciate the raw matter-of-fact way this story is told as well as the author's strength to rise above the poor circumstances of her childhood. *\*Recommended by Ms. Graff*

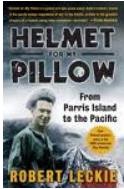
**Godless, Pete Hautman**

When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.

**Guardian, Julius Lester**

In a small southern town in 1946, white fourteen-year-old Ansel Anderson is on the cusp of manhood. Tragedy strikes when Mary Susan, the girl he likes, is brutally murdered. An innocent black man is lynched for it, and Ansel must deal with the guilt.

**\*Helmet for my Pillow, Robert Leckie**



"Helmet for my Pillow is about one man's loss of innocence during his time in the marines during WW II's Pacific Campaign...the recent mini-series "The Pacific" on HBO is based on it. --*\*Recommended by Mr. Fabry*

**Hit Squad, James Heneghan**

Birgit Nielsen, tired of the long-standing status quo at Grandview High School, organizes a group of like-minded students to combat the bullying and terrorism on campus with a series of bizarre and unexpected consequences.

**Hoops, Walter Dean Myers**

A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

**\*The Hour I First Believed, Wally Lamb**



I have always been an avid fan of Wally Lamb, and his latest novel exceeds my expectations. This novel is a fictional plot twisted around the real trauma that occurred in Littleton, Colorado (Columbine). A married couple who both work at the school at the time of the tragic event attempt to move on with their lives, but find themselves stuck in a whirlwind of chaos, guilt, and anger that they cannot escape. Lamb does a fantastic job of exploring the toil of human emotions, and the threatening idea that a few seconds in time can affect many years to come.

*\*Recommended by Ms. Marocchini*

**House of the Scorpion**, *Nancy Farmer*

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

**How to Build a House**, *Dana Reinhardt*

Seventeen-year-old Harper Evans hopes to escape the effects of her father's divorce on her family and friendships by volunteering her summer to build a house in a small Tennessee town devastated by a tornado.

**Hunger Games**, *Suzanne Collins*

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

**Into the Wild**, *Jon Krakauer*

The true story of Chris McCandless, a twenty-four-year-old who walked into the Alaskan wilderness on an idealistic journey and was found dead of starvation four months later. This book chronicles his journey and attempts to discover what led a young man to this point.

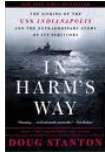
**Into Thin Air**, *Jon Krakauer*

The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

**Invisible I**, *Melissa Kantor*

Three very different girls from the same high school are selected to be guides for a new student, but when the girl disappears, leaving behind a trail of clues, the girls must work together to solve the mystery of Amanda Valentino.

**\*In Harm's Way**, *Doug Stanton*



The de-classified account about the sinking of the USS Indianapolis during WWII and how 900 sailors were left in the water for a week to fend off sharks, madness and each other....powerful.--\*Recommended by Mr. Fabry

**It's Not You, It's Me**, *Kerry Cohen Hoffman*

Follows sixteen-year-old Zoë through the first thirty-one days after Henry, her boyfriend of six months, breaks up with her, as she moves from being obsessed with getting back together to finding herself again.

**Just in Case**, *Meg Rosoff*

Charlie likes to be ready for anything, imagining that his house could be flooded or a mermaid might kidnap him, but he learns that it is sometimes good to be unprepared.

**Last Exit to Normal**, *Michael Harmon*

Yanked out of his city life and plunked down in a small Montana town with his newly outed father and his father's boyfriend, seventeen-year-old Ben, angry and resentful about the changed circumstances of his life, begins to notice something is not quite right with the little boy next door and determines to figure out what is going on.

**\*Left to Tell, Immaculee Ilibagiza**



This is an amazing story of one woman's survival of the Rwandan Genocide. Immaculee's story is so vivid, real, and heart-breaking. The horror of what happened to her and her will to live changed me. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to read about reality and truth.

*\*Recommended by Mrs. Angell*

**Life and Times of Thunderbolt Kid, Bill Bryson**

The author describes his childhood growing up in Iowa during the 1950s, recalling country fairs, playing hockey, paper routes, church suppers, and other nostalgic memories.

**Lock and Key, Sarah Dessen**

When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she too has something to offer others.

**Lord Loss, Darren Shan**

Presumably the only witness to the horrific and bloody murder of his entire family, a teenage boy must outwit not only the mental health professionals determined to cure his delusion, but also the demonic forces only he can see.

**Me, the Missing and the Dead, Jenny Valentine**

Sixteen-year-old Londoner Lucas Swain, left in possession of the ashes of Violet Park, becomes convinced that Violet is communicating with him, initiating a voyage of self-discovery that forces him to finally confront the events surrounding his father's sudden disappearance.

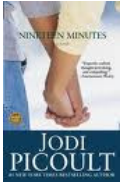
**Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac, Gabrielle Zevin**

What if you were given a blank slate to rewrite who you are? An accidental fall gives Naomi Porter just about that, wiping out the past four years of her life. Naomi remembers nothing after sixth grade and now has to piece together who she has become at age sixteen, reassessing every aspect of her life.

**Midnighters, Scott Westerfeld**

Moving when you're in high school is difficult enough, especially when your parents can't seem to hold their own lives together and your younger sister is being more obnoxious than usual. However, for 15-year-old Jessica Day, these concerns pale when bizarre things start to happen and she discovers that she now has unwanted magical powers.

**\*Nineteen Minutes, Jodi Picoult**



It is a thrilling insider view on the issue of bullying in schools. The author takes you deep inside the psyche of the bully as well the victim, and offers a different perspective of teenage issues.--\*Recommended by Ms. Graff

**Out of the Dust**, *Karen Hesse*

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

**Paper Towns**, *John Green*

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

**People of Sparks**, *Jeanne DuPrau*

Lina and Doon are thrilled to see their people join them above ground in the vibrant village of Sparks, but suspicion and prejudice soon turn the villagers and newcomers against each other. A follow-up to *The City of Ember*.

**Perfect Shot**, *Elaine Alphin*

Brian uses basketball to block out memories of his girlfriend and her family who were murdered; however, the upcoming trial and a high school history assignment forces him to face the past.

**Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood**, *Marjane Satrapi*

Marji tells of her life in Iran when the Islamic revolution of 1979 reintroduced a religious state to when the Iran-Iraq War forced her parents to send her to Europe for safety. This story, told in graphic format with black-and-white illustrations combines the normal rebelliousness of an intelligent adolescent with the horrors of war and totalitarianism.

**Playing It Cool**, *Joaquin Dorfman*

While tracking down the long-lost father of his best friend Jeremy, popular eighteen-year-old Sebastian calls on a network of favors and debts and begins to question his way of life.

**\*Reading Lolita in Tehran-A Memoir in Books**, *Azar Nafisi*.



While some use literature as a form of entertainment and leisure, some use literature as a means of escape by education. Azar is one of seven girls in Iran who secretly study books--and thus life lessons--in a country that stifles the liberating capabilities of reading. Azar's story reminds me of the power of literature, as well as the personal powers to overcome that we all possess.

\*Recommended by Ms. Marocchini

**Red Necklace**, *Sally Gardner*

In the late eighteenth-century, Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.

**Revenge of the Wannabes**, *Lisi Harrison*

Friendships are tested when Alicia, a seventh grader at Octavian Country Day School, decides to break away from the exclusive clique led by her best friend to start her own group

**Rule of Four**, *Ian Caldwell*

Tom Sullivan and Paul Harris are determined to unlock the centuries old mystery behind an ancient Renaissance text before their graduation from Princeton, but just as they are about to discover its secrets, the campus is rocked with a series of suspicious deaths.

**Shooting Star**, *Fredrick McKissak*

Jomo Rogers, a naturally talented athlete, starts taking performance enhancing drugs in order to be an even better high school football player, but finds his life spinning out of control as his game improves.

**Small Steps**, *Louis Sachar*

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. Sequel to *Holes*.

**\*Sold**, *Patricia McCormick*



It's frightening just how much happens in this world that we, as Americans are often sheltered from. The author actually went to Nepal to interview children and adults as research for ensuring that elements of the book were accurate. Child prostitution and slavery are horrors that still exist in our modern world today. This poignant tale of one girl's journey through a life no child should experience will remain with you long after you finish the last page. For those of you who prefer a quick read- this is for you. Written in verse, as is McCormick's style (also the author of "Cut"), you'll be finished with it before you know it!

*\*Recommended by Ms. Escott*

**So Yesterday**, *Scott Westerfeld*

Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by corporations to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with girlfriend Jen's creative talents to find a missing person and thwart a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture.

**Son of the Mob**, *Gordon Korman*

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

**Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083**, *Mary E. Pearson*

In the year 2083, five fourteen-year-olds who were deprived by chance of the opportunity to continue their educations re-enact Scott's 1910-1913 expedition to the South Pole as contestants on a reality television show, secretly aided by a Department of Entertainment employee.

**Tempo Change**, *Barbara Hall*

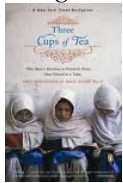
Sixteen-year-old Blanche forms a band that wins a spot at Coachella, a southern California music festival, where she hopes to reconnect with her father, a famous but reclusive musician who left when she was six years old.

**\*A Thousand Splendid Suns**, *Khaled Hosseini*



This is the follow up novel to the bestselling book "The Kite Runner". Though this novel is also set in Afghanistan and focuses on rule under the Taliban as well as Soviets, the main characters are girls who grow up to be women. If you've ever wondered what horrors women have had to endure in other parts of the world, where basic human rights are often lacking, where fear is a part of your existence and you have no say in your present or your future, then look no further. This is an astounding view of life as no person should have to live it. This book requires the reader to have a strong mind and soul as its heart wrenching images will burn into your imagination. If you enjoyed the Kite Runner, you won't be able to put this book down. \*Recommended by Ms Escott

**\*Three Cups of Tea**, *Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin* and **Stones Into Schools**, *Greg Mortenson and Mike Bryan*



"Three Cups of Tea" is the story of Greg Mortenson's personal struggle to build schools for girls in Central Asia after a failed attempt to climb K2 left him in the caring hands of a small Pakistani village. "Stones Into Schools" explains how this very personal cause has developed into a miraculous foundation that is, in my opinion, the best way to fight terrorism: providing schooling and brighter futures to people who never had that option before. These books have the drama of fiction - kidnappings, interesting settings, tenuous relationships with dangerous people, love, hate, etc. - with the impact of nonfiction - it is dizzying how real these situations are and, though they are on the other side of the globe, how closely connected we are to them. ---\*Recommended by Mrs. Ayer

**Things You Either Hate or Love**, *Brigid Lowry*

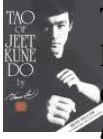
A cynical, overweight, and lonely Australian teenager spends her summer vacation making lists, eating comfort foods, and trying to earn enough money to attend a big rock concert.

**\*Time Traveler's Wife**, *Diane Ackerman*



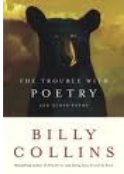
Although the book jumps around a little from date to date (as is the nature of time travel) this book delivers a touching story of adventure, love, and most importantly faith. \*Recommended by Ms. Graff

**\*The Tao of Jeet Kune Do**, *Bruce Lee*



The original "mixed martial arts" "textbook" ----- before MMA and UFC, Bruce Lee cultivated and system of fighting that blended numerous martial arts and established a philosophy that is personal to every martial artist...--\*Recommended by Mr. Fabry

**\*The Trouble With Poetry, Billy Collins**



What's great about poetry books? They're usually cheaper, shorter, require less concentration/effort, and more inspiring than novels. Try a book of poetry this summer! Billy Collins is easy to read and to relate to - his poems make you feel like you're listening to an old friend who has a way with words. –  
\*Recommended by Mrs. Ayer

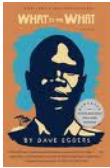
**Turnabout, Margaret Peterson Haddix**

Melly and Anny Beth agree to participate in Project Turnabout, a scientific experiment in which they are given a shot that will make them grow younger, until they receive a second injection that will stop the aging process. But when other participants die after receiving the second shot, Melly and Anny Beth refuse to have the shot and set out to find someone to care for them when they are too young to do it themselves.

**We All Fall Down, Robert Cormier**

As The Avenger searches for the teenage boys who trashed a house in his neighborhood, Buddy, one of the trashers, increases his drinking in order to cope with his parents' separation and his obsession with the daughter of the owner of the vandalized house.

**\*What Is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng, Dave Eggers**



This epic novel is based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who was forced out of his home in Sudan. He, and thousands of other "Lost Boys," walked hundreds of miles, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally resettles in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. "What Is the What" is moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny. An astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man. ----\*Recommended by Mrs. Ayer

**Witness, Karen Hesse**

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.