Choose one of the following books to read over the summer and complete the summer assignment posted online. Libraries in Little Falls, Totowa and Woodland Park have copies of books. Some books are also available online at www.books.google.com & Project Gutenberg @ www.gutenberg.org.

**English I Summer Reading List**

**Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer**
It's almost the end of Miranda's sophomore year in high school, and her journal reflects the busy life of a typical teenager: conversations with friends, fights with mom, and fervent hopes for a driver's license. When Miranda first begins hearing the reports of a meteor on a collision course with the moon, it hardly seems worth a mention in her diary. But after the meteor hits, pushing the moon off its axis and causing worldwide earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes, all the things Miranda used to take for granted begin to disappear.

**The Sledding Hill by Chris Crutcher**
Eddie Proffit is the very definition of a sympathetic character, losing his Dad and best friend to violent accidents in the opening pages. His story is narrated by the dead friend, Billy, who, if not in Heaven, is in a very good place—free of pain and full of neat tricks to employ during his ghostly mission to help Eddie overcome sadness so deep he has stopped speaking.

**Good Omens by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett**
These two novelists join forces to create a story about the end of the world and a witch named Agnes Nutter who predicts it all. With lots of humor and satire, the story of good and evil will keep you entertained.

**The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han**
Isabel, "Belly", lives for the summer, when she can go to Cousins Beach with her mother and brother for the season. Her childhood has been marked by countless summers spent with childhood friends. But now, at fifteen, Belly finds that her normally idyllic summer has changed, and her relationships with a pair of boys she has known for a long time are suddenly very different.
Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs
A boy follows clues to learn the secret of a family tragedy and winds up at an abandoned orphanage on a Welsh island. The story is illustrated with intriguing old-fashioned photographs.

True Stories

A Long Way Gone—Memoir of a Boy Soldier: Ishmael Beah
This true story is by a young man who, as a boy of 12, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war. It reveals the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Beah then finds himself in the army—in a drug-filled life of casual mass slaughter that lasts until he is 15, when he's brought to a rehabilitation center in the US.

Letters to a Bullied Girl: Olivia Gardner, Emily Buder, Sarah Buder
A real-life teen struggles with bullying and two sisters start a positive letter writing campaign. Inspiring and uplifting.

English I Honors
Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe

(Honors students have different summer assignment given by the English I Honors teacher)

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English II Summer Reading List

Shelter (Book One) A Mickey Bolitar Novel by Harlan Coben
Mickey Bolitar's year can't get much worse. After witnessing his father’s death and sending his mom to rehab, he's forced to live with his estranged uncle Myron and switch high schools. Fortunately, he's met a great girl, Ashley, and it seems like things might finally be improving. But then Ashley vanishes. Mickey follows Ashley's trail into a seedy underworld that reveals that Ashley isn't who she claimed to be. And neither was Mickey's father. Soon Mickey learns about a conspiracy so shocking that it leaves him questioning everything about the life he thought he knew.

Seconds Away (Book Two) A Mickey Bolitar Novel by Harlan Coben
When tragedy strikes close to home, Mickey and his loyal new friends—sharp-witted Ema and the adorkably charming Spoon—find themselves at the center of a terrifying mystery involving the shooting of their classmate Rachel. Now, not only does Mickey need to keep himself and his friends safe from the Butcher of Lodz, but he needs to figure out who shot Rachel—no matter what it takes.

Mystery novels: Read any book by Dick Francis
The murder mystery stories of British author Dick Francis revolve around the exciting world of horse racing in England. In a long and successful career, he wrote more than 40 books.
Hurricane Song by Paul Volponi
When Miles's mother remarries, Miles decides to move to New Orleans to be with his father. But he and his father are very different. Miles's dad lives for jazz, while Miles’s first love is football. Then Hurricane Katrina hits, and the two must seek refuge in the Superdome. What would normally be a dream come true for a football fan, this safe haven turns into a nightmare when the power fails and gangs take over. And when his father decides to rebel, Miles must make a choice that will alter their relationship and their lives forever.

True Stories

Silent Warrior OR Marine Sniper: 93 Confirmed Kills by Charles Henderson
Both books give a rare inside look at US Marines and their most challenging missions narrated by Henderson. In a series of recollections from his time in active combat, Henderson speaks honestly about war and the choices soldiers sometimes have to make.

It is the summer of 1854 and London is one of the most modern cities in the world. But a terrifying disease—cholera—breaks out; a doctor and a priest are spurred into action to solve the most pressing medical mystery of their time.

I Am Malala: the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzi is a memoir by the brave Nobel Prize winning teenager who almost lost her life standing up for the education of girls.

English II Honors
The Color of Water: James McBride
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time: Mark Haddon
The Scarlet Letter: Nathaniel Hawthorne
(Honors students have different summer assignment given by the English II Honors teacher)

English III Summer Reading List

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Klein
A compelling story of an unlikely friendship between Molly, a Native American in foster care, and Vivian, an older woman from Ireland who was put on an “orphan train” as a child. They get to know each other and find they have more in common than you might expect.

Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
Government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine don’t make the cut—but Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for military training.
Lone Wolf by Jodi Picoult  Estranged from his family while living in Thailand for the past six years, Edward Warren is summoned home to New Hampshire when his father, Luke, a renowned wolf expert, and Edward's 17-year-old sister, Cara, are critically injured in a car accident. Cara's wounds are not life-threatening, but Luke has suffered severe brain damage and languishes in a vegetative state doctors say is irreversible. As his father's legal next-of-kin, it falls to Edward to make the hard choices about life support and organ donation, a nearly impossible responsibility, given that father and son parted on angry terms the night Edward tried to confide to Luke that he was gay. Cara becomes a vocal advocate for her father's right to life and she and her brother clash.

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein  If you've ever wondered what your dog is thinking, Stein's third novel offers an answer. Enzo is a lab terrier mix plucked from a farm outside Seattle to ride shotgun with race car driver Denny Swift as he pursues success on the track and off. Denny meets and marries Eve, has a daughter, Zoë, and risks his savings and his life to make it on the professional racing circuit. Enzo, frustrated by his inability to speak and his lack of opposable thumbs, hopes for the day when his life as a dog will be over and he can be reborn a man.

True Stories

Flash Boys by Michael Lewis  By the author of Moneyball, this book takes a look at the high-level financial tricks used in the world’s financial markets—enabling a small number of individuals skilled in complex technology to make a huge amount of money in a very short time.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach  Those curious or brave enough to find out what really happens to a body that is donated to the scientific community can do so with this book. Dissection in medical anatomy classes is about the least bizarre of the purposes that science has devised. Mostly dealing with such contemporary uses such as stand-ins for crash-test dummies, Roach also pulls together considerable historical and background information.

Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage and Triumph by Travis Roy  Within the 11 seconds that inspired this memoir, Travis Roy realized his dream, then smashed into his nightmare. On an October night in 1995, Roy, a talented young hockey player, skated onto the ice for his varsity debut with Boston University. Eleven fateful seconds later, he was paralyzed from the neck down. Aided by the sure touch of Sports Illustrated hockey writer E.M. Swift, live Roy's moving account of his accident and his rehabilitation--confined to a wheelchair.

English III Honors
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
Long Day's Journey Into Night by Eugene O'Neill
The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls

(Honors students have different assignment given by the English III Honors teacher)
**English IV Summer Reading List**

**Speaker for the Dead (Ender Book 2) by Orson Scott Card**
Card's novel Ender's Game introduced Ender Wiggin, a young genius who used his military prowess to all but exterminate the "buggers," the first alien race mankind had ever encountered. Wiggin then transformed himself into the "Speaker for the Dead," who claimed it had been a mistake to destroy the alien civilization. Many years later, when a new breed of intelligent life forms called the "piggies" is discovered, Wiggin takes the opportunity to atone for his earlier actions.

**All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr**
Set in occupied France during World War II, a blind French girl and German boy try to survive the devastation of war as their paths cross.

**The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult**
Sage Singer is a baker. She works through the night, preparing the day’s breads and pastries, trying to escape a reality of loneliness, bad memories, and the shadow of her mother’s death. When Josef Weber, an elderly man in Sage’s grief support group, begins stopping by the bakery, they strike up an unlikely friendship despite their differences. Jodi Picoult explores the lengths we will go to protect our families and keep the past from dictating the future.

**The Tenth Circle by Jodi Picoult**
The Tenth Circle is a metaphorical journey through Dante's Inferno, told through the eyes of 14 year old Trixie Stone a girl from a small Maine family, whose hidden demons haunt every aspect of their seemingly peaceful existence. Woven throughout the novel are a series of dramatic illustrations that pay homage to the family's patriarch (comic book artist Daniel Stone), and add a unique twist to this gripping tale.

**I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak**
Ed Kennedy is a 19-year-old loser only marginally connected to the world; he's the son that not even his mother loves. But his life begins to change after he acts heroically during a robbery. Perhaps it's the notoriety he receives that leads to his receiving playing cards in the mail and almost immediately his life begins to swerve off its beaten-down path.

**Yellow Birds by Kevin Powers**
"The war tried to kill us in the spring." So begins this powerful account of friendship and loss. In Al Tafar, Iraq, twenty-one-year old Private Bartle and eighteen-year-old Private Murphy cling to life as their platoon launches a bloody battle for the city. Bound together since basic training when Bartle makes a promise to bring Murphy safely home, the two have been dropped into a war neither is prepared for.
True Stories

Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal by Mary Roach
“America’s funniest science writer” (Washington Post) takes us down the hatch on an unforgettable tour. The alimentary canal is classic Mary Roach terrain: the questions explored in Gulp are as taboo, in their way, as the cadavers in Stiff and every bit as surreal as the universe of zero gravity explored in Packing for Mars. Why is crunchy food so appealing? Why is it so hard to find words for flavors and smells? Why doesn’t the stomach digest itself? How much can you eat before your stomach bursts? Can constipation kill you? Did it kill Elvis? With Roach as our guide, we travel the world, meeting murderers and mad scientists, Eskimos and exorcists, rabbis and terrorists.

So You’ve Been Publically Shamed by Jon Ronson
Life in the age of oversharing via Facebook, Twitter, instant reactions and modern mass communication.

AP English
A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
One book of your choosing

(AP students have different summer assignment given by the AP teacher)