

GUHSD Optional Summer Reading 2013

To encourage academic excellence, all nine high schools in Glendale Union offer students the opportunity to earn extra credit for English during the summer. Below, you will find a short list of suggested titles from which to choose. Should you wish to complete this optional assignment, you will be eligible for extra credit points in your English class.

Examine the assignment attached. You will address the questions about your novel in Part A of the optional assignment that is due Friday, August 16, 2013. You may check the book out from the public library or purchase your own copy.

Suggested Titles

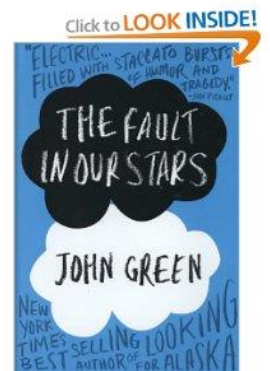
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

TIME Magazine's #1 Fiction Book of 2012!

"The Fault in Our Stars is a love story, one of the most genuine and moving ones in recent American fiction, but it's also an existential tragedy of tremendous intelligence and courage and sadness." —Lev Grossman, TIME Magazine

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

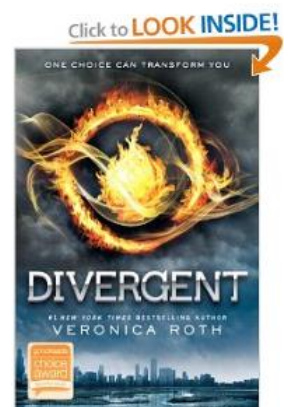
Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, *The Fault in Our Stars* is award-winning-author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.



Divergent by Veronica Roth

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.

During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles alongside her fellow initiates to live out the choice they have made. Together they must undergo extreme physical tests of endurance and intense psychological simulations, some with devastating consequences. As initiation transforms them all, Tris must determine who her friends really are—and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes exasperating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And as she discovers unrest and growing conflict that threaten to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves . . . or it might destroy her.

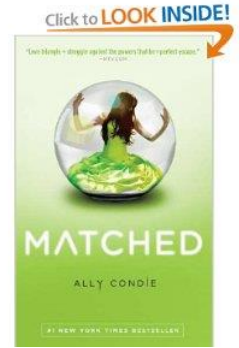


Debut author Veronica Roth bursts onto the YA scene with the first book in the *Divergent* series—dystopian thrillers filled with electrifying decisions, heartbreaking betrayals, stunning consequences, and unexpected romance.

Matched by Allie Condie

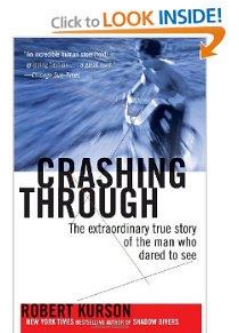
Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. The Society tells her it's a glitch, a rare malfunction, and that she should focus on the happy life she's destined to lead with Xander. But Cassia can't stop thinking about Ky, and as they slowly fall in love, Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility and is faced with an impossible choice: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path that no one else has dared to follow.

Look for the sequel, *CROSSED*, and the epic series finale, *REACHED*!



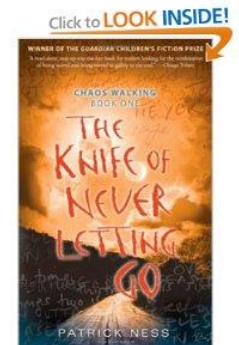
Crashing Through by Robert Kurson

Mike May spent his life crashing through. Blinded at age three, he defied expectations by breaking world records in downhill speed skiing, joining the CIA, and becoming a successful inventor, entrepreneur, and family man. He had never yearned for vision. Then, in 1999, a chance encounter brought startling news: a revolutionary stem cell transplant surgery could restore May's vision. It would allow him to drive, to read, to see his children's faces. But the procedure was filled with gambles, some of them deadly, others beyond May's wildest dreams. Beautifully written and thrillingly told, *Crashing Through* is a journey of suspense, daring, romance, and insight into the mysteries of vision and the brain. Robert Kurson gives us a fascinating account of one man's choice to explore what it means to see—and to truly live.



The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but in the midst of the cacophony, he knows that the town is hiding something from him -- something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog, whose simple, loyal voice he hears too. With hostile men from the town in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn't she killed by the germ like all the females on New World? Propelled by Todd's gritty narration, readers are in for a white-knuckle journey in which a boy on the cusp of manhood must unlearn everything he knows in order to figure out who he truly is.



Summer Reading Response

Part A.

Directions: Complete this form to organize your thoughts about your novel. Your answers must be legibly written or word-processed and in complete sentences. You should use specific examples from the text in all of your answers. This portion of the assignment is due Friday, August 16, 2013.

1. What is the primary setting¹ of the book? _____

2. Describe any additional settings you found interesting. _____

3. Describe the main character(s)². Include their names, and identify a characteristic of their behavior that makes them interesting. Use specific examples from the text to support your description.

4. Identify five-ten vocabulary words in the novel that were unfamiliar to you. Using context clues, what do you think the words mean? (Use your best skills to help you deduce³ or infer what the words mean.)

¹ setting: the time and place of the events in a story
² main characters: the protagonist(s) and antagonist(s); it is not necessary to discuss minor characters
³ deduce: to reach a conclusion by reasoning

5. Describe the primary conflict(s)⁴. Provide at least one quote from the text that supports this conflict and explain how this quote illustrates the conflict.

6. Discuss a message or theme⁵ from the book. Include examples and/or quotes from the book as support.

7. Explain why you would or would not recommend this book to others. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

⁴ primary conflicts: the problem(s) or struggle(s) between or among opposing forces that trigger(s) the action in literature (e.g., person vs. person, person vs. self, person vs. nature, person vs. society)

⁵ theme: the underlying idea or statement that the author is trying to convey