



New Brunswick Public Schools

Summer Reading Program Suggested Reading List

Aguirre, Ann, *Enclave*, RL: O

The Huntress Duece is drawn to her new partner, Fade, a mysterious boy who is not afraid to break the rules of the elders, and as she learns of the elders' deceptions, she and Fade push the enclave to test their faith and protect themselves from unexpected dangers.

Alexie, Sherman, *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, RL: Z+

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Anderson, Laurie Halse, *Speak* RL: Z

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Asher, Jay, *13 Reasons Why*, RL: M

High school student Clay Jensen receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

Ballard, Chris, *One Shot at Forever: A Small Town, an Unlikely Coach, and a Magical Baseball Season*

This remarkable story follows the Macon Ironmen, a team of misfits with a hippie coach, through a record setting baseball season.

Berry, Julie, *All the Truth That's in Me*, RL: O

Four years ago, Judith and her best friend disappeared from their small town of Roswell Station. Two years ago, only Judith returned, permanently mutilated, reviled and ignored by those who were once her friends and family.

Buzo, Laura, *Love and Other Perishable Items*,

Amelia meets Chris when he trains her for her brand-new job at the local supermarket. Smart and witty, they are perfect for each other. She is smitten, but he, on the rebound from his first, lost love, is preoccupied with the pursuit of booze and sex—and his college degree on the side. More importantly, she is 15, and he is 22. It just can't happen, can it?



New Brunswick Public Schools

Christopher, Lucy, *Stolen*, RL: N

The rugged Australian outback becomes Gemma's prison after she is drugged and abducted by a handsome, obsessed stranger.

Cormier, Robert, *The Rag & Bone Shop*, RL Q

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

Green, John, *Looking for Alaska* RL: Z+

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

Handler, Daniel, *Why We Broke Up*, RL: Y

Sixteen-year-old Min Green writes a letter to Ed Slaterton in which she breaks up with him, documenting their relationship and how items in the accompanying box, from bottle caps to a cookbook, foretell the end.

Kwok, Jean, *Girl in Translation*, RL: U

Ah-Kim Chang and her mother immigrate to Brooklyn, where they work for Kim's Aunt Paula in a Chinatown clothing factory earning barely enough to keep them alive; however, Kim's perseverance and hard work earns her a place at an elite private school where she is befriended by Annette, who helps her adjust to American culture.

Lewis, Michael, *Blind Side*, RL: Y

Details the life of University of Mississippi football player Michael Oher, who was raised by a crack addicted mother and adopted at the age of sixteen by a wealthy family, and explores the rising importance and salary of the offensive left tackle in the game of football.

Littman, Sarah, *Want to Go Private?*, RL: R

Insecure about the changes high school brings, Abby ignores advice from her parents and her only friend to "make an effort" and, instead, withdraws from everyone but with Luke, whom she met online, but when Abby agrees to meet Luke in person she discovers that her friend is not who he claims to be.



New Brunswick Public Schools

Lockhart, E. *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*, RL: V

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

Johnson, Angela, *First Part Last* RL: Z+

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

Mackall, Dandi Daley: *The Silence of Murder*

Sixteen-year-old Hope must defend her developmentally disabled brother, who has not spoken a word since he was seven years old, when he is accused of murdering a beloved high school baseball coach.

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia, *Under the Mesquite* RL: Y

Throughout her high school years, as her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry.

McCormick, Patricia, *Sold* RL: U

When she is tricked by her stepfather, thirteen-year-old Lakshmi becomes submerged in a nightmare where her only comfort is the friendships she forms. This helps her survive and eventually escape.

Mayer, Melissa, *Cinder*, RL: P

Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. . . Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness.

Myers, Walter Dean: *Fallen Angels*, RL: Z+

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.



New Brunswick Public Schools

Nelson, Jandy, *I'll Give You the Sun*

At first, Jude and her twin brother are Noah and Jude; inseparable. Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways.

Oliver, Lauren: *Before I Fall*, RL: Z

After she dies in a car crash, teenage Samantha relives the day of her death over and over again until, on the seventh day, she finally discovers a way to save herself.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth – *The Dead and the Gone*, RL: Z+

After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City

Reynolds, Jason, *When I was the Greatest*, RL: Q

Ali lives with his mother, Doris, and kid sister, Jazz, in the Bed-Stuy neighborhood of Brooklyn and spends all of his free time with best friends Noodles and Needles, brothers who live in a run-down brownstone next door. Needles was born with Tourette's syndrome, and after a particularly bad episode of tics, Doris gave him some knitting needles to focus his attention. The three teens hang out on the stoop and streets, living life and getting in just a touch of mischief.

Rodriguez, Gaby, *The Pregnancy Project*

When Gaby faked a pregnancy to challenge stereotypes, she also changed her life. A compelling memoir from an inspirational teenage activist.

Schanzer, Rosalyn, *Witches!: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem*, RL: Z+

An illustrated history of the witch hunts that took place in colonial-era Salem, Massachusetts, featuring primary source accounts, and describing the victims, accused witches, corrupt officials, and impact of the events on society.

Silvey, Craig, *Jasper Jones*, RL: N

In small-town Australia, teens Jasper and Charlie form an unlikely friendship when one asks the other to help him cover up a murder until they can prove who is responsible.

Smith, Andrew, *Winger*, RL: U

A teen at boarding school grapples with life, love, and rugby in a heartbreakingly funny novel. Ryan Dean West is a fourteen-year-old junior at a boarding school for rich kids. Ryan Dean manages to survive life's complications and even find some happiness along the way. But when the unthinkable happens, he has to figure out how to hold on to what's important, even when it feels like everything has fallen apart



New Brunswick Public Schools

Volponi, Paul, *Black and White*, RL: Q

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.

Walls, Jeannette, *The Glass Castle*, RL: Z+

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.

Whaley, John Corey, *Where Things Come Back*, RL: X

Seventeen-year-old Cullen's summer in Lily, Arkansas, is marked by his cousin's death by overdose, an alleged spotting of a woodpecker thought to be extinct, failed romances, and his younger brother's sudden disappearance.

Weitz, Chris, *The Young World*

After a mysterious Sickness wipes out the rest of the population, the young survivors assemble into tightly run tribes. Jefferson, the reluctant leader of the Washington Square tribe, and Donna, the girl he's secretly in love with, have carved out a precarious existence among the chaos. But when a fellow tribe member discovers a clue that may hold the cure for the Sickness, five teens set out on a life-altering road trip, exchanging gunfire with enemy gangs, escaping cults and militias, braving the wilds of the subway--all in order to save humankind.

Zusak, Marcus, *I am the Messenger* RL: Q

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, which helps him start to get over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.