



All Upper School Students
Required Form
Due *A.S.A.P.*

**2010 SUMMER READING SELECTIONS – PART 1
GRADES 9, 10, 11 and 12**

The faculty would like you to join them in reading at least one good book this summer. We have selected books we would like to read and think you would like as well. Please choose at least one book from the following list, but **please don't pick a book you've already read**. Students will be assessed on their comprehension of the reading during the first week of school. (Please note that this is in addition to grade specific reading summer reading assignments.)

Students are responsible for purchasing their book selections or borrowing from the school or public library.

As you consider your choice, we encourage you to discuss these selections with your friends and your parents, who might also want to read some of these books. **Some of these books are on display in the library.**

**FACULTY / STUDENT SUMMER READING
SELECTION FORM**

Choose one book; **write down the title of the book from the following list that you will read this summer, along with your name and grade for 2010-2011.**

Current Students: Please return this form to your advisor by May 28.

New Upper School students: Please contact Mrs. Jipson, our librarian, with your choice. She may be reached at bjipson@derryfield.org or via fax to 625-9715 or you may return this form in the mail.

Your name

grade level next year

Your book choice

LIST OF SELECTIONS

BOOK #1: Acceptance

Author: David L. Marcus

BOOK #2: An Abundance of Katherines

Author: John Green.

BOOK #3: The Art of Racing In The Rain

Author: Garth Stein

BOOK #4: The Baron in the Trees

Author: Italo Calvino

BOOK #5: The Devil in the White City

Author: Erik Larson

BOOK #6: Dragon's Egg

Author: Robert L. Forward

BOOK #7: Dragonsong

Author: Anne McCaffrey

BOOK #8: Drive

Author: Daniel Pink

BOOK #9: A Great and Terrible Beauty

Author: Libba Bray

BOOK #10: Heart of a Dog

Author: Mikhail Bulgakov

BOOK #11: How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Author: Julia Alvarez

BOOK #12: The Hunger Games

Author: Suzanne Collins

BOOK #13: Into the Wild

Author: Jon Krakauer

BOOK #14: Kabul Girls Soccer Club: A Dream, Eight Girls, and a Journey Home

Author: Awista Ayub - (Paperback to be released on June 8, 2010)

BOOK #15: Leviathan
Author: Scott Westerfeld

BOOK #16: The Lost Symbol
Author: Dan Brown

BOOK #17: Mansfield Park
Author: Jane Austen

BOOK #18: My Sister's Keeper
Author: Jodi Picoult

BOOK #19: Musicophilia
Author: Oliver Sacks

BOOK #20: Nine Stories
Author: J.D. Salinger

BOOK #21: Playing the Enemy; Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation
Author: John Carlin

BOOK #22: The Secret History
Author: Donna Tartt

BOOK #23: The Thousand Autumns of Jacob
Author: David Mitchell

BOOK #24: The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University
Author: Kevin Roose - (Paperback to be released on June 3, 2010.)

BOOK #25: Wicked
Author: Gregory Maguire

DESCRIPTIONS

BOOK #1: Acceptance
Author: David L. Marcus

Gwyeth Smith, known as Smitty, is a renowned guidance counselor who believes that getting into college should be a kid's first great moment of self-discovery. In *Acceptance*, David L. Marcus, Pulitzer Prize-winning former education writer for U.S. News & World Report, spins an absorbing narrative of a year in the lives of Smitty and "his" kids. At a diverse public school in Long Island, New York, Smitty works his unique magic on students' applications and their lives, helping them find the right college by figuring out who they are, rather than focusing on what their test scores, grades, and finances reflect. Loaded with advice that readers can apply to their own college searches, *Acceptance* is a book that thousands of students and their parents will find indispensable. (Brennan Barnard & Craig Sellers)

BOOK #2: An Abundance of Katherines**Author:** John Green.

Right after intellectual child-prodigy Colin Singleton graduates from high school, his girlfriend (who, like the 18 young women and girls whom he claimed as girlfriends over the years, is named Katherine) breaks up with him and sends him into a total funk. His best friend, Hassan, determines that he can only be cured with a road trip. After some rather aimless driving, the two find themselves in Gutshot, TN, where locals persuade them to stay. There, Colin spends his spare time working on a mathematical theorem of love, hypothesizing that romantic relationships can be graphed and predicted. (School Library Journal), (Michelle Coombes & Stacy Beaudoin)

BOOK #3: The Art of Racing in the Rain: a Novel**Author:** Garth Stein

A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life. . . as only a dog could tell it. (Katy Keefe-Hancock)

BOOK #4: The Baron in the Trees**Author:** Italo Calvino

This is a novel about a boy who leaves home to live in the trees. The story is both adventure and fable: an exciting narrative of a boy who leaves his father's control behind and moves into the live oak in his back yard, and a meditation on independence and freedom. (Becky Josephson)

BOOK #5: The Devil in the White City**Author:** Erik Larson

Truth IS stranger than fiction, and this account finds the 1892 Chicago's World's Fair as the intersection announcing America's economic greatness to the world, and the appearance of America's first serial urban killer. *The Devil in the White City* "draws the reader into a time of magic and majesty, made all the more appealing by the supporting cast of real life characters including Buffalo Bill, Susan B. Anthony and the Archduke Francis Ferdinand." If you enjoy history, architecture, are fascinated by America on the eve of the creation of hamburgers and Cracker Jacks, are willing to withstand the torture chambers of a young murderer, then this is a book you should read. Set in turn of the century America, it is a tale of unvarnished America – violent, optimistic, and eager to declare itself the new center of the world. Travel through the successes and setbacks of building this fair – all the while watching Holmes who preys on the young and the innocent. (Bruce Berk)

BOOK #6: Dragon's Egg**Author:** Robert L. Forward

Robert Forward brings you along on an interesting ride of life existing somewhere else, but not a somewhere else that humans could ever be . . . a somewhere else that is completely foreign to even how we might think of life. The "cheela" live at a rate that is hundreds of years to one hour in our existence . . . so to see them over a day is to see them and their culture change by maybe 8000 years, a week for us is 60,000 years to a cheela . . .

Forward uses real world science at a high level to see how such creatures could live and evolve in such a place. A moving story of sacrifice and triumph as the cheela start as the most simple of life forms, develop a savage culture, find science, are discovered by human scientists and learn from us ... for awhile. A fascinating book. (Rob Bradley)

BOOK #7: Dragonsong

Author: Anne McCaffrey

Forbidden to play music because she is a girl, Menolly runs away, becomes telepathically joined to a group of small fire-lizards, and finally is honored for her music at the place of the great dragon riders on the planet Pern. If you like fantasy and have never read Anne McCaffrey's prose, this is the book for you. (Laurel Devino)

BOOK #8: Drive

Author: Daniel Pink

According to Pink (*A Whole New Mind*), everything we think we know about what motivates us is wrong. He pits the latest scientific discoveries about the mind against the outmoded wisdom that claims people can only be motivated by the hope of gain and the fear of loss. Pink cites a dizzying number of studies revealing that carrot and stick can actually significantly reduce the ability of workers to produce creative solutions to problems. What motivates us once our basic survival needs are met is the ability to grow and develop, to realize our fullest potential. (Amazon.com) (Mary Carter)

BOOK #9: A Great and Terrible Beauty

Author: Libba Bray

Following her mother's unexpected death in India in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma Doyle is sent to boarding school in England, where her education on societal mores is complicated when she discovers that she is the link between the world she lives in and other, magical, possibly dangerous realms. (Betty Jipson)

BOOK #10: Heart of a Dog

Author: Mikhail Bulgakov

A stray, wounded dog is rescued from the streets of Soviet Moscow by a scientist. The grateful dog is loyal and loving, until his owner decides to use him as a test subject. The dog is turned into a human, and as it gains human traits, it becomes more of a liar, a cheat and a heavy drinker. Eventually, it becomes a dog catcher (for the "Moscow Cleansing Department responsible for eliminating vagrant quadrupeds") and a troublemaker for its master. This novella is all of 150 pages long, but is considered a classic of 20th century Russian literature. (Steve Mathes)

BOOK #11: How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Author: Julia Alvarez

This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, when their lives have been shaped by U. S. mores, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island. Adapting to American life is difficult and causes embarrassment when friends meet their parents, anger as they are bullied and called "spics," and

identity confusion following summer trips to the family compound in the Dominican Republic. These interconnected vignettes of family life, resilience, and love are skillfully intertwined and offer young adults a perspective on immigration and families as well as a look at America through Hispanic eyes. This unique coming-of-age tale is a feast of stories that will enchant and captivate readers. (Reina Reidy)

BOOK #12: The Hunger Games

Author: Suzanne Collins

Imagine a point in the future when the world is in bad shape and the United States has become a collection of 12 districts of laborers who support the government and idle rich in the Capitol. Once a year, each district must send two children to play in a real game of survival, which is televised for the entertainment of the country. As *Time* magazine writes, the game is a cross between *Survivor*, *Lord of the Flies* and Theseus and the Minotaur in the Labrynth. The protagonists, Katniss and Peet, are fantastic characters: ruthless when necessary, compassionate, romantic, funny, unexpected, and skilled in hunting (she), baking (he) and battling mutants. Luckily for us, not only is *The Hunger Games* one of those books you want to reread as soon as you finish it (it was voted one of the best books of 2008 by the *Library Journal*), it also has a sequel! (Lindley Shutz)

BOOK #13: Into the Wild

Author: Jon Krakauer

After graduating from Emory University in Atlanta in 1992, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska, where he went to live in the wilderness. Four months later, he turned up dead. This true story seeks to answer the questions why McCandless would do this and what he was looking for. It is a gripping tale that makes one confront the power of human connection and the idealism found in each of us, and to ultimately wonder if he was reckless or wise. (From Amazon.com) (Brent Powell)

BOOK #14: Kabul Girls Soccer Club: A Dream, Eight Girls, and a Journey Home

Author: Awista Ayub

Imagine living in a country where sports are primarily for boys, and where a girl with a soccer ball is likely to be taunted. Under Taliban rule, girls in Afghanistan couldn't play outside of their homes, let alone participate on teams. This is the story of eight girls who traveled to the US to learn soccer, then returned to Afghanistan to spread their love of the sport to others. Today there are hundreds of girls playing in the Afghanistan Football Federation thanks to the pioneering efforts of these first eight girls. Their story provides insights into the challenges they faced and the obstacles they overcame as they changed not only attitudes towards girls and sports, but challenged the role of girls and women in society. (Kathleen Ruddy-Fey and Terri Moyer)

BOOK #15: Leviathan

Author: Scott Westerfeld

Have you ever wondered what World War I might look like through the lens of Steampunk? Disguising herself as a boy, Deryn Sharp joins the British Air Service on the eve of World War I with dreams of becoming the best pilot in the Service. Her first mission is to fly a biologically enhanced octopus. On the other side of Europe, Aleksander Ferdinand, prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, finds himself on the run after his parents are assassinated. As the Great War unfolds and the paths of these two characters cross, they have to decide who to trust, who is the enemy, and who is about to betray their secrets. If you have never read Steampunk literature

before, here is your chance to explore the punk movement that blends science, history, and the steam engine. (Carrie Foster)

BOOK #16: The Lost Symbol

Author: Dan Brown

The Lost Symbol is the follow-up story to *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown. As the story opens, Harvard symbolist Robert Langdon is summoned unexpectedly to deliver an evening lecture in the U.S. Capital. Within minutes of his arrival, however, the night takes a bizarre turn. A disturbing object-artfully encoded with five symbols-is discovered in the Capital Building. Langdon recognizes the object as an ancient invitation...one meant to usher its recipient into a long-lost world of esoteric wisdom. When Langdon's beloved mentor, Peter Solomon, prominent Mason and philanthropist, is brutally kidnapped, Langdon realizes his only hope of saving Peter is to accept this mystical invitation and follow wherever it lead him. Langdon is instantly plunged into a clandestine world of Masonic secrets, hidden history, and never-before-seen locations-all of which seem to be dragging him toward a single, inconceivable truth. (Jeff Cousineau)

BOOK #17: Mansfield Park

Author: Jane Austen

From its sharply satiric opening sentence, *Mansfield Park* deals with money and marriage, and how strongly they affect each other. Shy, fragile Fanny Price is the consummate "poor relation." Sent to live with her wealthy uncle Thomas, she clashes with his spoiled, selfish daughters and falls in love with his son. Their lives are further complicated by the arrival of a pair of witty, sophisticated Londoners, whose flair for flirtation collides with the quiet, conservative country ways of Mansfield Park. Written several years after the early manuscripts that eventually became *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park* retains **Austen's** familiar compassion and humor but offers a far more complex exploration of moral choices and their emotional consequences. (Amanda Claybough for Amazon.com) (David Simpson)

BOOK #18: My Sister's Keeper

Author: Jodi Picoult

Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, the 13-year-old has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow as part of her family's struggle to lengthen Kate's life. Anna is now being considered as a kidney donor in a last-ditch attempt to save her 16-year-old sister. This is a real page-turner and frighteningly thought-provoking. (Amazon.com) (Diane Allen)

BOOK #19: Musicophilia

Author: Oliver Sacks

Music can move us to the heights or depths of emotion. It can persuade us to buy something, or remind us of our first date. It can lift us out of depression when nothing else can. It can get us dancing to its beat. But the power of music goes much, much further. Indeed, music occupies more areas of our brain than language does—humans are a musical species.

Oliver Sacks's examines the powers of music through the individual experiences of patients, musicians, and everyday people—from a man who is struck by lightning and suddenly inspired to become a pianist at the age of

forty-two, to an entire group of children with Williams syndrome, who are hypermusical from birth; from people with “amusia,” to whom a symphony sounds like the clattering of pots and pans, to a man whose memory spans only seven seconds—for everything but music.

Music is irresistible, haunting, and unforgettable, and in *Musicophilia*, Oliver Sacks tells us why. (Amazon.com) (Jack Sanford)

BOOK #20: Nine Stories

Author: J.D. Salinger

In some ways, parts of J. D. Salinger's *Nine Stories* do read like the work of the man who wrote the rather famous novel. In other ways, though, the collection is quite different. At times, you might find yourself nodding your head at something familiar. At other times, though, you'll be quite surprised at the variety of Salinger's interests. The stories, differing in tone and subject matter from each other, offer a range of quirky, sometimes funny, engrossing characters working their way through some rather odd situations. (Richard Anthony)

BOOK #21: Playing the Enemy; Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation

Author: John Carlin

Describes how the 1995 rugby World Cup helped Nelson Mandela unite the country of South Africa and bring about the end to the country's apartheid and bitter racial tensions. This book has received rave reviews and inspired the movie *Invictus*. (Lenny McCaigue)

BOOK #22: The Secret History

Author: Donna Tart

Imagine a charismatic classics teacher convening a study group at a country home to learn ancient Greek rites. Imagine being a new student invited to join this select group of initiates. Imagine discovering that in your presence unspeakable atrocities have been committed, and that the only way to keep the secret is to murder one of your classmates. This is the story in Donna Tartt's literary thriller. If you enjoy intrigue, imaginative engagement, and intellectual stimulation in a New England college setting, you will likely enjoy this ambitious 1992 novel. (John Bouton)

BOOK #23: The Thousand Autumns of Jacob

Author: David Mitchell

When I was a teenager, I couldn't wait for the next album by my favorite bands – the arrival of U2's *Joshua Tree*, for example, was truly a memorable event, and I can still vividly remember hearing the opening notes on the stereo for the first time. I feel the same way about new books by certain authors, and so on my calendar this summer June 29th is circled and starred as the day David Mitchell's new book *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob* comes out. It's set in Japan in 1799 on the one island that allows westerners to visit and trade with the empire. The protagonist is Jacob de Zoet, a clerk for the Dutch East India Company, who is trying to save enough money so that he can return to Holland and marry his wealthy fiancée. But Jacob meets Orito, the daughter of a samurai, and... well, we'll just have to find out, won't we? If this book is anything like Mitchell's other books, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob* will be a remarkably engaging read; he's able to do the grand sweep and the minutely observed detail simultaneously. One reviewer describes Mitchell as “the magician of modern fiction”;

another just calls him “a genius.” I am truly looking forward to June 29th – maybe you will be too. (David Pook)

BOOK #24: The Unlikely Disciple

A Sinner’s Semester at America’s Holiest University

Author: Kevin Roose

You heard Kevin Roose speak about his experiences in our own auditorium and now you have the chance to read more about his adventures at Liberty University. The book’s website reads, “The chronicle of Roose’s journey is timely, hilarious, and thought-provoking, and will inspire and entertain believers and non-believers alike.” (Ed Lemire)

BOOK #25: Wicked

Author: Gregory Maguire

Born with green skin and huge teeth, the free-spirited Elphaba grows up to be an anti-totalitarian agitator, an animal-rights activist, a nun, then a nurse who tends the dying and, ultimately, the headstrong Wicked Witch of the West in the Land of Oz. Much of the narrative concerns Elphaba's troubled youth (she is raised by a giddy alcoholic mother and a hermitlike minister father who transmits to her his habits of loathing and self-hatred) and with her student years...Maguire combines puckish humor and bracing pessimism in this fantastical meditation on good and evil, God and free will, which should, despite being far removed in spirit from the Baum books, captivate devotees of fantasy. (Publishers' Weekly) (Susan Grodman)