

# Central Bucks School District Summer Reading -- 2013

## C.B. East, C.B. South, C.B. West

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage in each student a lifelong love of reading. By choosing books students will enjoy and by reinforcing and inviting you to cogitate on your reading with a follow-up activity, we hope to engage and entertain you as well as communicate the joys of participating in a lively, interactive community of fellow readers.

### Grade 10

#### Honors and Academic

- The Things They Carried (O'Brien)
- Cat's Cradle (Vonnegut)
- The Secret Life of Bees (Kidd)
- Into the Wild (Krakauer)
- Durable Goods (Berg)

### Grade 11

#### Honors and Academic

- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Skloot)
- In Defense of Food (Pollan)
- A Whole New Mind (Pink)
- Fading Echoes (Sielski)
- Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers (Roach)

### Grade 12

#### Honors and Academic

- Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith (Nahai)
- A Thousand Splendid Suns (Hosseini)
- Bel Canto (Patchett)
- Nectar in a Sieve (Markandaya)
- The Zookeeper's Wife (Ackerman)

**Students should select and read at least one book from the list for their grade. Students SHOULD NOT select a book they have already read for a school assignment.**

***The book should be completed before the beginning of the semester during which the student has English class.***

***Early in the semester, students will complete a follow-up project based on the summer reading books. This project will be graded.***



***"When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."***  
– Maya Angelou

## Grade 10

### ***The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien**

O'Brien gives a frank portrayal of the horrors of the Vietnam War. This book is a series of fictional episodes taking place in the childhoods of its characters, in the jungles of Vietnam, and back home in America two decades later.

\*\*\* contains strong language

### ***Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut**

This entertaining novel, in pure Vonnegut style, is filled with scientists, G-men, and even ordinary folks caught up in chasing each other around in search of the world's most important and dangerous new substance, a new form of ice that freezes at room temperature.

### ***The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd**

Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina, at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.

### ***Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer**

Krakauer retraces the steps of a 23-year-old young man who renounces his possessions and heads into the Alaska wild where he is destroyed by nature and his own bad choices.

### ***Durable Goods* by Elizabeth Berg**

Adolescent Katie spends the lazy days of summer waiting for life to begin; waiting for womanhood to begin; waiting to fall in love; and waiting for the beatings to stop.

## Grade 11

### ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

This book examines the experiences of the children and husband of Henrietta Lacks who, twenty years after her death from cervical cancer in 1951, learned doctors and researchers took cells from her cervix without consent that were used to create the immortal cell line known as the HeLa cell. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

### ***In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto* by Micheal Pollan**

Pollan provides another shocking yet essential treatise on the industrialized Western diet and its detrimental effects on our bodies and culture. As an increasing number of Americans are overfed and undernourished, Pollan makes a strong argument for serious reconsideration of our eating habits and casts a suspicious eye on the food industry and its practices.

### ***A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future* by Daniel Pink**

With visionary flair, Pink argues that business and everyday life will soon be dominated by right-brain thinkers. He identifies the roots and implications of transitioning from a society dominated by left-brain thinkers into something entirely different. According to Pink, the keys to success are in developing and cultivating six senses: design, story, symphony, empathy, play, and meaning. Pink compares this upcoming "Conceptual Age" to past periods of intense change, such as the Industrial Revolution and the Renaissance, as a way of emphasizing its importance.

### ***Stiff: The Curious Life 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. For those who are interested in the fields of medicine or forensics and are aware of some of the procedures, this book makes excellent reading.

### ***Fading Echoes* by Michael Sielski**

Tells the story of Bryan Buckley and Colby Umbrell, captains of rival high school football teams in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, who enlisted in the military after graduation and were sent to fight in the Middle East—Colby as an Army Ranger and Bryan as a Marine, and discusses how their families and the entire town were affected when only one of them survived.

## Grade 12

### ***Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith* by Gina B. Nahai**

When she is five, Lili, the narrator, watches her mother throw herself off the balcony of their lavish home on The Avenue of Faith, only to miraculously grow wings and fly "into the star-studded night of Iran." Lili will not see her mother, known as Roxanna the Angel, for 13 years, but she will be haunted by a desire to understand why she left and to bring about her safe return. The novel is a strong example of "magical realism."

### ***A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini**

A novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban, which tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband.

### ***Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett**

Somewhere in South America, at the home of the country's vice president, a lavish birthday party is being held in honor of the powerful businessman, Mr. Hosakawa of Japan. Roxanne Coss, opera's most revered soprano, has mesmerized the international guests. It is a perfect evening until a band of gun-wielding terrorists takes the entire party hostage. What begins as a panicked life-threatening scenario, slowly evolves into something quite different as terrorists and hostages forge unexpected bonds. Friendship, compassion, and the chance for great love lead the characters to forget the real danger that has been set in motion... and cannot be stopped.

### ***Nectar in a Sieve* by Kamala Markandaya**

In the 1920s, young Rukmani leaves her family to marry a tenant farmer and lead a quiet life with her husband in rural India. As years pass, despite poverty, monsoons, and drought, Rukmani and her husband persevere. As British industrialization brings cultural conflict, Markandaya illustrates the clash of old ways versus new ways.

### ***The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman**

This is a true story about the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo who saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands. When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw—and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages. Another dozen "guests" hid inside the Zabinskis' villa, emerging after dark for dinner, socializing, and, during rare moments of calm, piano concerts. Jan, active in the Polish resistance, kept ammunition buried in the elephant enclosure and stashed explosives in the animal hospital. Meanwhile, Antonina kept her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and its animal inhabitants—otters, a badger, hyena pups, lynxes.