

# KILLARNEY SUMMER READING 2011

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## KILLARNEY SECONDARY SCHOOL READING LIST - GRADE 10

Reading is an essential skill for success in any student's education. Here is a list that offers books for leisure reading as well as for expanded learning. Enjoy!

### NON-FICTION CHOICES

#### ***The Bite of the Mango* - Mariatu Kamara**

The astounding story of one girl's journey from war victim to UNICEF Special Representative

#### ***Angela's Ashes* - Frank McCourt**

Angela's Ashes is a 1996 [memoir](#) by the [Irish-American](#) author [Frank McCourt](#). The memoir consists of various anecdotes and stories of Frank McCourt's impoverished childhood and early adulthood in [Brooklyn, New York](#) and [Limerick, Ireland](#), as well as McCourt's struggles with poverty, his father's drinking issues, and his mother's attempts of keeping the family alive.

#### ***Blink* - Malcolm Gladwell**

It's a book about rapid cognition, about the kind of thinking that happens in a blink of an eye. When you meet someone for the first time, or walk into a house you are thinking of buying, or read the first few sentences of a book, your mind takes about two seconds to jump to a series of conclusions. Well, "Blink" is a book about those two seconds, because I think those instant conclusions that we reach are really powerful and really important and, occasionally, really good.

#### ***The Glass Castle* - Jeanette Walls**

When sober, Jeannette Wall's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. THE GLASS CASTLE is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant.

#### ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* - Junot Díaz**

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd, who dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien --- and, most of all, of finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants.

#### ***East of Eden* - John Steinbeck**

John Steinbeck's passionate and exhilarating epic re-creates the seminal stories of Genesis through the intertwined lives of two American families. The result is a purely American saga set in Steinbeck's own childhood home, the Salinas Valley of northern California.

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## ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven - Mitch Albom***

A wounded war veteran who is killed in a tragic accident soon discovers that heaven isn't merely a destination but a place where five people help the deceased understand the significance and value of their life on earth.

## ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - Douglas Adams***

Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor. Together this dynamic pair begins an unusual journey through space

## ***The House on Mango Street - Sandra Cisneros***

Told in a series of vignettes, THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET is the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong--not to her rundown neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power, and inventing for herself what she will become.

## ***The Memory Keeper's Daughter - Kim Edward***

Kim Edwards's stunning family drama articulates every mother's silent fear: what would happen if you lost your child and she grew up without you? In 1964, when a blizzard forces Dr. David Henry to deliver his own twins, he immediately recognizes that one of them has Down's Syndrome and makes a split-second decision that will haunt all their lives forever.

## ***The Poisonwood Bible - Barbara Kingsolver***

In 1959, Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist, takes his four young daughters, his wife, and his mission to the Belgian Congo --- a place, he is sure, where he can save needy souls. But the seeds they plant bloom in tragic ways within this complex culture.

## ***The Road - Cormac McCarthy***

Cormac McCarthy, winner of the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, returns with his 10th novel, a terrifying "what if" story about the apocalypse. A father and his son travel the road in search of food, safety and humanity after a nuclear war has wiped out society and most of the human race.

## **FICTION**

### ***The Hunger Games Trilogy - Suzanne Collins***

Katniss is a 16-year-old girl living with her mother and younger sister in the poorest district of Panem, the remains of what used be the United States. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called "The Hunger Games." The terrain, rules and level of audience participation may change, but one thing is constant: kill or be killed. When Kat's sister is chosen by lottery, Kat steps up to go in her place.

### ***The Maze Runner - James Dashner***

Sixteen-year-old Thomas finds himself emerging from a metal box into an enclave of teen males. All he really remembers about himself is his name as he negotiates life in the wall-enclosed Glade, surrounded by a maze that might lead them home --- if they can solve it and also manage to survive the deadly monsters prowling within.

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## ***The Scorch Trials [follow up to Maze runner] - James Dashner***

Solving the Maze was supposed to be the end. Thomas was sure that escape meant he and the Gladers would get their lives back. But no one really knew what sort of life they were going back to. As it turns out, the Gladers are far from finished with running. Instead of freedom, they find themselves faced with another trial.

## ***The Mortal Instruments Series - Cassandra Clare***

Like "Twilight," vampires and werewolves populate The Mortal Instruments fantasy world, but the trilogy is chiefly concerned with more heavenly matters: the Nephilim, humans with angel blood in their veins. The series follows 15-year-old Brooklyn girl Clary Fray's whirlwind introduction to the world of Shadowhunters, nephilim warriors who protect oblivious humans from dangers presented by vamps, werewolves and other kinds of baddies. If you thought that human Bella and vampire Edward's relationship was fraught with issues, take a read through Clary's life!

## ***The Host - Stephanie Meyers***

In Stephenie Meyer's first book for adults, alien "souls" have taken over the minds and bodies of humans. Melanie Stryder, a captured rebel, resists the takeover of her mind by Wanderer, the soul implanted in her body. Under the influence of Melanie's emotions, Wanderer is compelled to search for Melanie's love Jared and brother Jamie, who are still in hiding.

## ***Little Brother - Cory Doctorow***

The novel is about several [teenagers](#) in [San Francisco](#) who, in the aftermath of a [terrorist](#) attack on the [San Francisco – Oakland Bay Bridge](#) and [BART](#) system, defend themselves against the [Department of Homeland Security's](#) attacks on the [Bill of Rights](#).

## ***The Earth, My Butt, and other Big Round Things - Carolyn Mackler***

Virginia Shreves, heroine of THE EARTH, MY BUTT, AND OTHER BIG ROUND THINGS, feels like the ugly duckling. In her high-achieving, blonde, beautiful and thin family, chubby, brown-haired, average Virginia sticks out like a sore thumb. Her best friend has moved all the way to Washington State, and Virginia doesn't like any of the shallow, popular girls at her New York City private school. What's more, she is sure that none of the other kids at school --- especially the boys --- could possibly like someone who's carrying a few extra pounds.

## ***Speak - Laurie Halse Anderson***

Melinda Sordino, a sharp, witty "everygirl" turns into a social pariah after busting an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. The safest place to be is alone, inside her own head. But even that's not safe. There's something she's trying not to think about, something about the night of the party that, if she let it in, would blow her carefully constructed disguise to smithereens. And then she would have to speak the truth.

## ***American Born Chinese - [Gene Luen Yang](#)***

Indie graphic novelist Gene Yang's American Born Chinese is made up of three individual plotlines: the determined efforts of the Chinese folk hero Monkey King to shed his humble roots and be revered as a god; the struggles faced by Jin Wang, a lonely Asian American middle school student who would do anything to fit in with his white classmates; and the sitcom plight of Danny, an All-American teen so shamed by his Chinese cousin Chin-Kee (a purposefully painful ethnic stereotype) that he is forced to change schools. Each story works well on its own, but Yang engineers a clever convergence of these parallel tales into a powerful climax that destroys the hateful stereotype of Chin-Kee, while leaving both Jin Wang and the Monkey King satisfied and happy to be who they are.