

KILLARNEY SUMMER READING 2011

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KILLARNEY SECONDARY SUMMER READING LIST—GRADE 9

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!

FICTION

***American Born Chinese* - Yang, Gene Luen**

This graphic novel intertwines three narratives as it explores the themes of identity, stereotypes, acceptance and diversity. Jin is the only Chinese American at his high school where he just wants to fit in and catch the eye of cute Amelia Harris, not the friendship of FOB Wei-Chen who arrives from Taiwan. The Monkey King seeks acceptance as a god. Last, Danny is riding the waves of popularity until his cousin Chin-Kee arrives from China, the epitome of Chinese stereotypes.

***Babylonne* - Jinks, Catherine**

Babylonne is a sixteen-year-old orphan living in the harsh reality of the 13th century. Confronted by an uncaring aunt who has her poised to marry an older 'gentleman', and worn tired by mistreatment and abuse, Babylonne disguises herself as a boy and runs off to join a group of noble knights. Her life becomes both clearer and more complicated after she meets a Catholic priest who claims to have known her father. This is a well-researched and historically accurate novel that illustrates the glories and horrors of the 13th century.

***The Book Thief* - Zusak, Marcus**

Set over four years in Germany in WWII and narrated by Death, this novel follows Liesel, a girl living with a kind foster family, who are hiding Max, a Jew, in the basement. Liesel steals books as she discovers the power that words play in bravery, and cowardice. Liesel shares a deep friendship with Max, both haunted by the nightmares of those they have lost. Moving, profound, tragic, nightmarish, poetic, mesmerizing and surprising. This book is for readers who love to read, to think and to feel.

***Born Confused* - Hidier, Tanuja Desai**

Seventeen-year-old Dimple, whose family is from India, discovers that she is not Indian enough for the Indians and not American enough for the Americans, as she sees her hypnotically beautiful, manipulative best friend taking possession of both her heritage and the boy she likes.

***Code Orange* - Cooney, Caroline**

Faced with expulsion from Advanced Biology, and therefore losing contact with the lovely Olivia, Mitty Blake must do some fast work on his overdue project. But when he unwittingly exposes himself to the virus that causes smallpox, his high school assignment takes on far more serious implications. And when a terrorist group becomes interested in Mitty's virus, things get downright terrifying.

***Dracula* - Stoker, Bram**

The most well-known vampire story, *Dracula* tells the tale of solicitor Jonathan Harker, sent from London to meet Count Dracula in his castle in Transylvania. While it appears the worst is over as Jonathan barely escapes the castle with his life, in fact the truly horrible events are just beginning as the Count makes his way to London.

***Enigma* - Harris, Robert**

How the English code breakers decoded the famous German Enigma radio traffic during WWII. Makes you feel like you are right there. Strong male and female real-life characters.

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***A Great and Terrible Beauty* - Bray, Libba**

At the turn of the 20th century, sixteen-year-old Gemma Doyle returns to England from India after a mysterious tragedy, full of grief and guilt. Once at her private boarding school, terrible visions and strange visitors haunt her. It appears that Gemma will have more to contend with than just fitting in; she has a date with destiny, and the supernatural. Although a fantasy, this book also addresses the role of women in Victorian society. The first book of a trilogy.

***I am the Messenger* - Zusak, Marcus**

Someone notices when cabdriver Ed Kennedy offhandedly stops a bank robbery. The Ace of Diamonds appears in his mailbox with three addresses written on it. Ed is supposed to deliver a message to these addresses, but no one is telling him what that message is. All he is told is that his life depends on it. The author not only gives voice to the fatalistic and hilarious Ed, but also to the innumerable characters he encounters: a barefoot runner, an elderly widow, and Ed's own coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. "Maybe everyone can live beyond what they're capable of."

***Keeper* - Peet, Mal**

After winning the World Cup, the heroic goal keeper El Gato recounts the story of his boyhood learning to play soccer in a logging camp in the Amazon jungle. A ghostly presence taught him how to be the best goalie in the world. Mal Peet weaves a tale of mystery and magic with real-life issues: leaving home to seek fame, and facing the ruin of our natural environment. If you'd rather be playing or watching sports than reading, this book might just capture your attention.

***Kidnapped* - Stevenson, Robert Louis**

In this classic historical adventure set in the 1750's, 18-year-old David Balfour of Scotland is alone after his father's death. His only living relative, Uncle Ebenezer, does everything he can to keep David from inheriting his fortune, even having him kidnapped by a ship's captain who transports him to the high seas. Here David meets and teams up with Alan and the two friends become fugitives from the English forces. From kidnapping to shipwreck to murders, the action never lets up. *Kidnapped* includes many true events and characters. Try the Penguin Classics edition with a handy glossary to help you understand the Scots dialect.

***The Maze Runner* - Dashner, James**

This science fiction thriller is set in a dystopian future where Thomas wakes to find that he and other boys live in the Glade, surrounded by the Maze, where monsters lurk after dark. Doors to the Maze change every night so a new maze is presented every day. Runners of the Maze try to unlock its secrets as the Gladers work against a force called WICKED. Dangerous trials ensue. Be gripped by this thriller. First of a trilogy.

***Pirates* - Rees, Celia**

Nancy Kington and Minerva Sharp are two young women from very different backgrounds who, in time, unite as they work to survive their new situation. Nancy, the daughter of a successful Bristol ship owner, was to have married her childhood sweetheart, William. However, when disaster strikes, she is sent to a plantation in the islands, where she meets Minerva, the abused servant of the cruel master. When circumstances force them to run away, they must join a pirate crew to survive. This novel will appeal to readers who like adventure, romance and stories about teens who survive by using their wits and strength.

***Rebecca* - du Maurier, Daphne**

This classic novel combines romance, mystery, betrayal, murder and revenge. The young heroine, vulnerable yet intrepid, finds the love of her life only to realize that at his ancestral home, Manderly,, there lies a terrible secret. Feel the chills as love falters and conspiracy deepens.

***Run* - Patchett, Anna**

Powerful story of two families across racial lines that meet and reach out for each other – past personal weaknesses and reservations. Evocative and empowering.

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***Sarah's Key* - de Rosnay, Tatiana**

A dual story that details the arrest and deportation of French Jews during WWII and the present-day experiences of the female journalist who is researching their story.

***True Confessions of a Heartless Girl* - Brooks, Martha**

On the run after taking her latest boyfriend's truck, with a pocketful of stolen money and a heart full of pain, seventeen-year-old Noreen Stall seems to invite trouble. And trouble comes soon enough, as Noreen's new mistakes trigger calamities that shake the lives of the residents of Pembina Lake...

***Zen and the Art of Faking it* - Sonnenblick, Jordan**

Trying to fit in at a new school, and facing Wednesday night phone calls from a convict father he despises, San Lee decides he needs a gimmick. Thanks to Social Studies 8, the door to Zen Buddhism opens. San's old clothes and tattered sandals become a great disguise as he steps into his role as the Zen expert of Grade 8. San fools everyone into believing his Buddhist philosophy. Although he seems to be fitting in and gaining popularity, he worries that faking it may make him like the father he has learned to detest.

NON-FICTION

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* - Beah, Ishmael**

The author tells his story of living in Sierra Leone and being forced to become a child soldier. Faced with two options, "to kill or to be killed", he shows us a world where children have been turned into soulless killers. However, his memoir is a testament to the resilience of children to overcome brutality and violence, if given the help and support required.

***All Creatures Great and Small* - Herriot, James**

James Herriot's classic stories of life as a country vet will have you laughing, grossed out and thoroughly entertained. The young vet is mistrusted by the old farmers, threatened by ornery animals, and played tricks on by friends. Somehow he survives the muddy roads in his old car-with-no-brakes, while trying not to appear a total idiot to Helen, the girl he's crazy about.

***Black Like Me* - Griffin, John**

In 1959, journalist John Griffin artificially darkened his white skin to spend six weeks as a black man in racially segregated southern states. The diary he kept of his experiences was the root of this book depicting the difficulties facing black people at the time. He often received "hate stares" and rudeness from whites, or was made to feel invisible, as if he did not exist. An eye-opener.

***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter* - Mah, Adeline Yen**

Mah's mother died giving birth to her in 1937. Her wealthy father, her four older siblings and the new wife Niang mistreated or ignored this "unlucky" girl. Only Grandfather YeYe and Aunt Baba loved and encouraged her. Telling her family's story, Mah vividly depicts scenes of old China.

***The Great Escape* - Brickhill, Paul**

In the early morning hours of March 25, 1944, 76 Allied airmen, including nine Canadians, escaped from a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp in Poland after two years of planning and digging three tunnels: Tom, Dick and Harry. How did they do it under the eyes of German guards?

***Iqbal* - D'Adamo, Francesco**

Presents a fictionalized account of the life of Iqbal Masih, the Pakistani child who escaped from bondage in a carpet factory and went on to help liberate children like himself. Inspirational.

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***The Last Lecture* - Pausch, Randy**

This lecture from a prof to his students was given in 2007 to reflect upon what matters most in this life, as if it's your last chance to speak. Randy Pausch had been diagnosed with terminal cancer at the time. Yet, he delivered an upbeat inspirational speech entitled "Achieving Your Childhood Dreams" about truly living each day to its fullest. His lively stories, challenges faced, lessons learned and principles revealed have been recorded here for his three children, and us.

***Letters to a Bullied Girl* - Gardner, Olivia**

Olivia Gardner was bullied for over two years. News spread to sisters Emily and Sarah Buder who initiated a letter-writing campaign to lift her spirits. In *Letters to a Bullied Girl*, the three girls share an inspiring selection of messages that came from all over America, plus practical guidance from bullying expert Barbara Coloroso, author of *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander*.

***Made You Look: How Advertising Works and Why You Should Know* - Graydon, Shari**

An intriguing exploration of advertising's inner workings, from the earliest roots of advertising to the guerrilla marketers of today, *Made You Look* is thought-provoking, revealing and lively.

***Mao's Last Dancer* - Li, Cung Xin**

From a poor village in northeast China, at age eleven, Li Cung Xin was chosen by Madame Mao's cultural officials to study ballet in Beijing. His next culture shock was a 1979 ballet company exchange to America where he fell in love with everything, including an American dancer. Tension ensued as he defected, but the Chinese government did not want to let him go.

***Me to We: Finding Meaning in a Material World* - Kielburger, Craig**

For everyone who has ever yearned for a better life and a better world, Craig and Marc Kielburger share a blueprint for personal and social change, a guide to creating "a revolution in giving and community building" and to achieving "happiness by helping others." *Me to We* blends personal experiences and practical references with a philosophy of commitment and the belief that individual action *can* make a difference.

***My Family and Other Animals* - Durrell, Gerald**

From age ten to fourteen, Gerald Durrell lived on Corfu, a sunny Greek island. His autobiographical stories are full of puppies, toads, donkeys and equally eccentric family members and friends. Set before WWII, the tales are comic exaggerations of innocent, care-free times.

***Never Cry Wolf* - Mowat, Farley**

This fictionalized adventure takes you to the Canadian Arctic where young biologist Farley Mowat is sent to study his new neighbours, a pack of wolves. Just how much danger is he in? Can they live side by side? Watch for delightful surprises, poignant moments, and a classic gross-out recipe. This book challenged the old myths about wolves, and helped end government-mandated wolf killing. Mowat entertains with a touching, funny story that questions our place on the planet.

***Night* - Weisel, Eli**

A Jewish boy imprisoned with his father in Nazi concentration camps, Eli Weisel was horrified by "the death of God", his father's helplessness, and his own seething teen resentment. For years he could not speak of his experiences, having lost his faith in God and his fellow man. Eventually, he wrote *Night*, a blend of fiction and memoir, horrific and powerful. Translated into 30 languages.

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The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens - Covey, Sean

Covey recommends moving from dependence to independence, sharing resources and success with others, and imagining an “Upward Spiral” of constant improvement in the effective teen’s path to personal freedom, security and wisdom. Food for thought if you’re ready for growth.

Science of Everyday Life - Ingram, Jay

What’s the science behind showing your tongue? What’s up with insect swarms? Why do dogs look like their owners? Best-selling author Jay Ingram explains many weird, fascinating mysteries.

Zlata’s Diary: A Child’s Life in Sarajevo - Filipovic, Zlata

Zlata lived in Sarajevo in the former Yugoslavia in 1991 when the civil war closed into a siege around her. Her diary is a testament of the deprivations children endure during war time.