

## NEW WEST CHARTER SUMMER READING

Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade

### Why does New West encourage students to read over the summer?

The ability to read is crucial to an individual's success in school and on the job. Reading is a life-long skill a person not only needs for success as a student and a worker, but reading is also an essential skill in civic and personal activities. Even more importantly, reading opens the world through a different lens and angle. By reading, individuals have the opportunity to learn about people, times, regions and ideas that they may never actually encounter in life. Therefore, consistent with our commitment to prepare all students for success, New West expects all students to read during the summer. We recommend our students to read at least 3 books. They may be 3 books from the following list or 3 books of their own interest.

**The following list is a combination of teenage reading and classical literature. Each book on the list is interesting in its own way and would be engaging for any student. In addition, each book is an indicator of how rigorous the reading material will become for students as they progress within New West Charter.**

*Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*

*Sula* by Toni Morrison

*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

*The Epic of Gilgamesh* (various versions)

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry (A Must Read for foundational acknowledgement)

*Looking for Alaska* by John Green

*The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch

*The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling

*Absolutely Normal Chaos* by Sharon Creech

*Troilus and Cressida* by William Shakespeare

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

*The Works of William Wordsworth* by William Wordsworth

*How Did It Begin? The Origins of our Curious Customs and Superstitions* by Dr. R. and L. Brausch

*The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

*Paper Towns* by John Green

*The Illustrated Man* by Ray Bradbury

*The Crypt Thief* by Mark Pryor

*House Rules* by Jodi Picoult

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

*Lightning* by Dean Koontz

*Second Child* by John Saul

*The Lock Artist* by Steve Hamilton

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (various versions)

*Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury

*The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper



*Ironman* by Chris Crutcher

*The Keeper* by Mal Peet

*Watership Down* by Richard Adams

*Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by  
Douglas Adams

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

*The Hunger Games series* by Suzanne  
Collins

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

*The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls

*Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift

*I Am The Cheese* by Robert Cormier

*The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells

*Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette  
Greene

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur  
Conan Doyle

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir  
Arthur Conan Doyle

*Shadows* by John Saul

*And Then There Were None* by Agatha  
Christie

*Tex* by S. E. Hinton

*Mexican White Boy* by Matt de la Peña

*Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary  
Mind of an Autistic Savant* by Daniel  
Tammet

*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis  
Stevenson

*Alas, Babylon* by Pat Frank

*Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut

*World War Z: An Oral History of the  
Zombie War* by Max Brooks

*Bless the Beasts and the Children* by  
Glendon Swarthout

*Death Be Not Proud: A Memoir* by John  
Gunther

*The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson

*A Night To Remember* by Walter Lord

*Songs of Innocence and of Experience* by  
John Keats

Any book reviewing Greek Gods, Heroes  
and Myths -- examples below:

*Gods, Heroes and Men of Ancient  
Greece* by W.H.D. Rouse

*Bullfinch's Mythology* by Thomas  
Bullfinch

*The Greek Myths* by Robert Graves