

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF EDISON TOWNSHIP

11th GRADE SUMMER READING

Directions: Select **ONE book** (either fiction OR non-fiction) and **ONE non-fiction article** from the list below. When you return to school in September, you will submit a **Double-Entry Journal** for the texts that you have read (worksheet is attached to this packet). Please choose quotations that support the theme below. Assignments and links to the non-fiction articles are provided on the school and District Websites.

GRADE 11 THEME: Survival

What does it mean to be a **survivor**? The human spirit is constantly challenged by obstacles such as loss, family tragedy, illness, natural disaster, and even war. Include references from the texts that you read that relate to the theme of **survival**.

For students entering Grade 11

Fiction

Boy21 by Matthew Quick

The New York Times bestselling author. When Finley's basketball coach asks him to look out for new kid Russ, he has no idea what's in store. Finley might be used to the racial conflict in his town and the pressures of basketball, but he is totally unprepared for Russ's strange request to be called "Boy21."

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

National bestseller and winner of The Pulitzer Prize. A father and his son walk alone through burned post-apocalyptic America. They boldly imagine a future in which no hope remains, but in which they are "each the other's world entire."

If I Stay by Gayle Forman

The New York Times bestseller. In a single moment, everything changes. Seventeen-year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall riding along the snow-wet Oregon road with her family. Then, in a blink, she finds herself watching as her own damaged body is taken from the wreck. Little by little she struggles to put together the pieces- to figure out what she has lost, what she has left, and the very difficult choice she must make.

The 5th Wave (#1 in a series) by Rick Yancey

The New York Times bestselling series. After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one. At the dawn of the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from *Them*. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. To stay alone is the stay alive, Cassie believes, until she meets Evan Walker. He may be her only hope for rescuing her brother-- or even saving herself.

The Martian: Classroom Edition by Andy Weir

The New York Times #1 bestseller. Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces the crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive-- and even if he could get word, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills--and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit--he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

Fiction (continued)

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

The New York Times bestselling novel. World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find strength, courage and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety. Just when it seems freedom is within grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people--adults and children alike--a aboard must fight for the same thing: survival.

Non-Fiction

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich

The New York Times bestseller. Millions of Americans work full time, year round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, Barbara Ehrenreich decided to go undercover and join them. Moving from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, she worked as a waitress, a hotel maid, a cleaning woman, a nursing-home aide, and a Wal-Mart sales clerk. She learned that one job is not enough; you need at least two if you want to live indoors.

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

#1 National Bestseller. A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray.

Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania by Frank Bruni

The New York Times bestseller. Over the last few decades, Americans have turned college admissions into a terrifying and occasionally devastating process, preceded by test prep, tutors, and a conviction among young people that their futures will be determined and their worth established by which schools say yes and which say no. That belief is wrong. Through statistics, surveys, and the stories of hugely successful people who didn't attend the most exclusive schools, Frank Bruni demonstrates that many kinds of colleges serve as ideal springboards. And he illuminates how to make the most of them. What matters in the end are a student's efforts in and out of the classroom, not the gleam of his or her diploma.

The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens by Brooke Hauser

Some walked across deserts and mountains to get here. One arrived after escaping in a suitcase. And others won't say how they got here. These are "the new kids": new to America and all the routines and rituals of an American high school, from lonely first days to prom. They attend Brooklyn's International High School at Prospect Heights, where all the students are recent immigrants learning English.

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

National Bestseller. The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. A riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.

Tattoos on the Heart by Gregory Boyle

The New York Times bestseller. For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. He distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of stories inspired by faith, reminding us that no life is less valuable than another.

Non-Fiction Articles

["Used to Hardship, Latvia Accept Austerity, and Its Pain Eases" – Andrew Higgins](#)

["The Heartache of an Immigrant Family" – Sonia Nazario](#)

["How Much Control Do You Think You Have Over Fate?" – Michael Gonchar](#)

**Links of articles are also provided on the school and District Websites.*

A reading program is a joint responsibility between school and family. Parents might very reasonably disagree about what material constitutes suitable reading for children. The titles suggested are not Board of Education approved texts. They are works that are recommended by such organizations as the American Library Association, the *New York Times*, and the National Council for Teachers of English. They appear on many reading lists across the nation. Nevertheless, certain titles may contain subject matter that some parents may not want their children to read (whether Grimm's Fairy Tales for young children or books with mature themes and graphic language for older students). Only parents can determine appropriate choices for their children. Check with teachers, local librarians, and book websites for reading levels and information about the various titles.