



# Clark Public Schools

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**Edward Grande**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

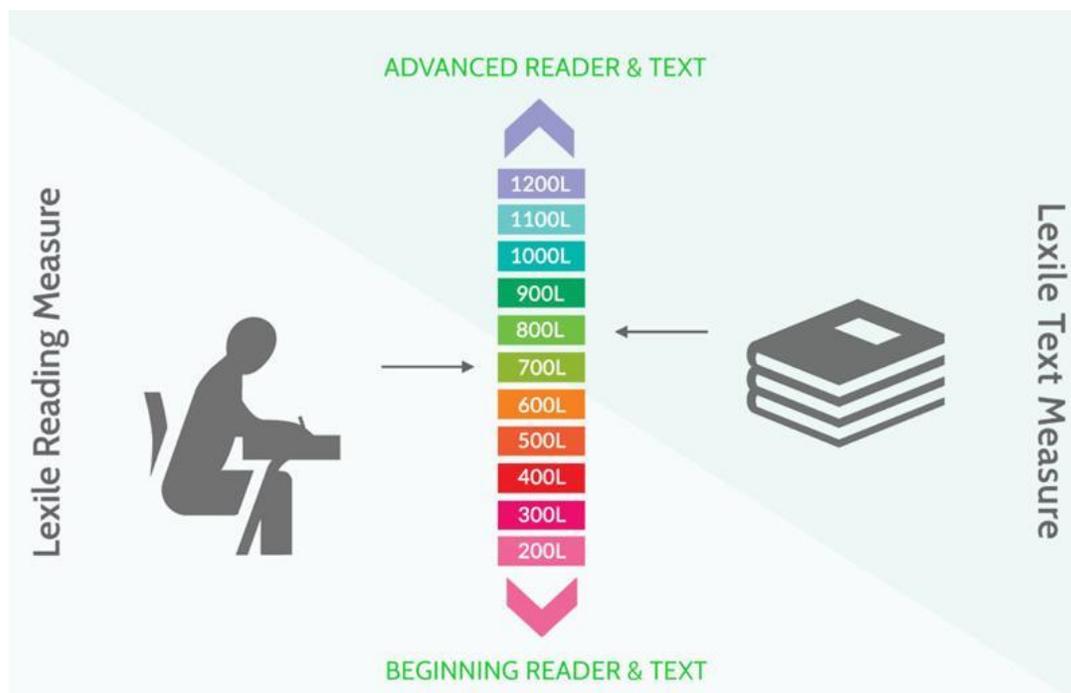
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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Arthur L. Johnson High School English teachers, supervisor, and I are eager to present the summer reading lists to the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth-grade students for the 2023-2024 school year. Each student, including those slated for an **honors or College Prep (CP) level course**, will be asked to read the **“required” book** for his/her grade level and **one more book** from the “suggested” list. Students in **resource-level English classes** are expected to read **one book** of their choice over the summer; they do **not** need to read the “required” book. Resource students may feel free to choose any book from their grade level list that peaks their interest. Students enrolled in the **AP English courses** will be given a **totally different assignment** that is separate from these lists by their teachers. All students, however, are obviously encouraged to read beyond the previously described requirements.

You will notice that the attached list contains titles for all students, a brief synopsis of each book, and Lexile reading levels. Please be mindful of helping your child choose a book that is commensurate with his/her reading ability, and use the Reading Level column and synopses to assist in making those choices. All books on each grade level list are at or below grade level, so use the image below to gauge where your child may fall in his/her reading ability when choosing an appropriate text. Also, please consult teachers, local librarians, and book websites as you aid your child in choosing books to gain information about reading levels and other information about various titles.



In order to complete the summer reading requirement, students (**not including** those in resource-level classes) should be prepared to take a reading comprehension test based on the required novel once they return to school. Also, within the first two weeks of school, your child (**including** those in resource-level classes) will complete a writing assignment or project based on the other book(s) that he/she read from the suggested list. In order to best prepare for this assignment, we encourage your child to keep a set of notes and/or an outline as he/she reads his/her suggested book(s). These notes and/or this outline may be used in class as your child crafts his/her individual writing assignment. This [list of topics for consideration](#) will hopefully assist in focusing your child's reading.

Both the test and the writing assignment will be administered in your child's English class during the first two weeks of school. Specific dates for these assessments will be provided by your child's teacher when he/she returns to school. For your convenience, the summer reading lists are posted on the ALJ website and they have been sent to the Clark Public Library. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Olivia Miller, our English supervisor, via e-mail at [omiller@clarkschools.org](mailto:omiller@clarkschools.org).

Have a safe and enjoyable summer! Happy Reading!

Yours sincerely,

Edward Grande

**9th Grade Summer Reading List:****REQUIRED READING:**

<b>Title &amp; Author:</b>	<b>Synopsis:</b>
<i>Things Not Seen</i> by Andrew Clements	Bobby Phillips wakes up one morning to discover he's a missing person. Not that he's been kidnapped — he's still in his own home — but he's turned invisible! Worried that he'll become a medical curiosity, his parents decide to keep it a secret and Bobby is more alone than he's ever been in his life.

**CHOOSE ONE FROM THE SELECTIONS BELOW:**

<b>Title &amp; Author:</b>	<b>Synopsis:</b>	<b>Reading Level:</b>
<i>“One of Us is Lying”</i> by Karen McManus	Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you would go to protect them.	730L
<i>The Five People You Meet in Heaven</i> by Mitch Albom	Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It's a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: "Why was I here?"	780L
<i>The Golden Compass</i> by Phillip Pullman	Lyra is rushing to the cold, far North, where witch clans and armored bears rule. North, where the Gobblers take the children they steal. North, where her fearsome uncle is trying to build a bridge to a parallel world. Can one small girl make a difference in such great and terrible endeavors?	930L
<i>The Great Wide Sea</i> by M.H. Herlong	Ben, Dylan, and Gerry are still mourning their mother's death when their dad decides to buy a boat and take them on a year-long sailing trip. Tensions flare between Ben and his father, but they gradually learn to live together in close quarters. But one morning, the boys wake up to discover their father has disappeared--and they are lost. What happened to him? Where are they? And what will they do when a treacherous storm looms on the horizon?	660L
<i>The Hate You Give</i> by Angie Thomas	Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses her childhood best friend Khalil get shot. What	590L

	everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.	
<i>The Lovely Bones</i> by Alice Sebold	"My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973." So begins the story of Susie Salmon, who is adjusting to her new home in heaven, a place that is not at all what she expected, even as she is watching life on earth continue without her -- her friends trading rumors about her disappearance, her killer trying to cover his tracks, her grief-stricken family unraveling.	890L
<i>Paper Towns</i> by John Greene	Quentin Jacobsen has spent a lifetime loving the magnificently adventurous Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs into his life he follows. After their all-nighter ends, and a new day breaks, Q arrives at school to discover that Margo has now become a mystery. But Q soon learns that there are clues—and they're for him. Urged down a disconnected path, the closer he gets, the less Q sees the girl he thought he knew.	850L
<i>A Dog's Purpose</i> by W. Bruce Cameron	This is the remarkable story of one endearing dog's search for his purpose over the course of several lives. More than just another charming dog story, this touches on the universal quest for an answer to life's most basic question: Why are we here?	970L
<i>The Sun is also a Star</i> by Nicola Yoon	College-bound romantic Daniel Bae and Natasha Kingsley meet over one magical day amidst the fervor and flurry of New York City. Sparks immediately fly between these two strangers, who might never have met had fate not given them a little push. With just hours left on the clock in what looks to be her last day in the U.S., Natasha is fighting to stay in the country just as fiercely as she's fighting her growing feelings for Daniel.	650L
<i>Clap When you Land</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo	Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land. In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.	800L

## 10th Grade Summer Reading List:

### REQUIRED READING:

Title & Author:	Synopsis:
<i>Breathing Underwater</i> by Alex Flinn	Nick Andreas is a troubled 16-year-old struggling with relationships, control, and abuse. His girlfriend, Caitlin, doesn't trust him. His best friend, Tom, actively shuns him. Caitlin turns to Saint for support and protection.

### CHOOSE ONE FROM THE SELECTIONS BELOW:

Title & Author:	Synopsis:	Reading Level:
<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i> by Julia Alvarez	The García sisters and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow brutal dictator. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. Their parents try to hold on to their old ways as the girls try find new lives, but for them, it is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new.	950L
<i>Seconds Away</i> by Harlan Coben	When tragedy strikes close to home, Mickey and his loyal new friends—sharp-witted Ema and the adorably charming Spoon—find themselves at the center of a terrifying mystery involving their classmate Rachel. Now, not only does Mickey need to keep himself and his friends safe from the Butcher of Lodz, but he needs to figure out who killed Rachel—no matter what it takes.	550L
<i>Looking for Alaska</i> by John Green	Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words—and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet François Rabelais called the “Great Perhaps.” Much awaits Miles at Culver Creek, including Alaska Young, who will pull Miles into her labyrinth and catapult him into the Great Perhaps.	850L
<i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i> by Garth Stein	Enzo is a lab terrier mix plucked from a farm outside Seattle to ride shotgun with race car driver Denny Swift as he pursues success on the track and off. Denny meets and marries Eve, has a daughter, Zoë, and risks his savings and his life to make it on the professional racing circuit. Enzo watches Denny's old racing videos, coins koanlike aphorisms that apply to both driving and life, and hopes for the day when his life as a dog will be over and he can be reborn a man.	850L
<i>Bel Canto</i> 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. Hosokawa. Roxane Coss has mesmerized the international guests with her singing. It is a perfect evening—until	930L

	a band of terrorists takes the party hostage. But what begins as a panicked, life-threatening scenario slowly evolves into something quite different and bonds and people from different continents become compatriots, intimate friends, and lovers.	
<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> by Stephen Chbosky	This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. We may not know where he lives. We may not know to whom he is writing. All we know is the world he shares. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it puts him on a strange course through uncharted territory.	720L
<i>Mexican Whiteboy</i> by Matt de la Pena	Danny is tall and skinny. Even though he's not built, his arms are long enough to give his pitch a power so fierce any college scout would sign him on the spot. Every time he gets up on the mound, he loses it. But at his private school, they don't expect much else from him. And growing up in San Diego that close to the border means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. That's why he's spending the summer with his dad's family. But to find himself, he may just have to face the demons --the demons that are right in front of his face. And open up to a friendship he never saw coming.	680L
<i>Plainsong</i> by Kent Haruf	Set in Kent Haruf's fictional landscape of Holt County, Colorado, Tom Guthrie is struggling to bring up his two young sons alone and, in the same town, Victoria Roubideaux is pregnant and homeless. Whilst Tom's boys find their way forward without their mother, brothers Harold and Raymond McPheron - gentle, solitary, gruff and unpolished - agree to take Victoria in, unaware that their lives will change forever.	770L
<i>Passing</i> by Nella Larson	Irene Redfield is a woman with an enviable life. She and her husband share a comfortable Harlem town house with their sons. But her hold on this world begins to slip the day she encounters Clare Kendry, a childhood friend with whom she had lost touch. Clare tells Irene how, after her father's death, she began passing for white, hiding her true identity from everyone, including her husband. When Clare witnesses the vibrancy and energy of the community she left behind, her burning desire to come back threatens to shatter her careful deception.	810L
<i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i> by James Baldwin	Told through the eyes of Tish. Tish and Fonny have pledged to get married, but Fonny is falsely accused of a terrible crime and imprisoned. Their families set out to clear his name, and as they face an uncertain future, the young lovers experience a kaleidoscope of emotions--affection, despair, and hope.	1110L

**11th Grade Summer Reading List:**

**REQUIRED READING:**

Title & Author:	Synopsis:
<i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Myers	Steve Harmon is a black 17-year-old boy who is on trial for a felony murder he may or may not have committed. He decides to look through the court system and jail time as if it were a movie, and as if everyone saw him for what he truly was.

**CHOOSE ONE FROM THE SELECTIONS BELOW:**

Title & Author:	Synopsis:	Reading Level:
<i>The Road</i> by Cormac McCarthy	A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other.	360L
<i>The Fifth Child</i> , by Doris Lessing	Harriet and David Lovatt have created an idyll of domestic bliss in defiance of the social trends of late 1960s England. While around them crime and unrest surge, the Lovatts are certain that their old-fashioned contentment can protect them from the world outside until the birth of their fifth baby. Harriet and David are torn between their instincts as parents and their shocked reaction to this fierce and unlovable child whose existence shatters their belief in a benign world.	1110L
<i>Franny and Zooey</i> by J.D. Salinger	The first story takes place in downtown New Haven during the weekend of 'the Yale game' and follows Franny Glass on a date with her collegiate boyfriend. The second focuses on Zooey Glass, a somewhat emotionally toughened genius.	990L
<i>Brother, I'm Dying</i> by Edwidge Danticat	From the age of four, award-winning writer Edwidge Danticat came to think of her uncle Joseph as her "second father," when she was placed in his care after her parents left Haiti for America. And so she was both elated and saddened when, at twelve, she joined her parents and youngest brothers in New York City. As Edwidge made a life in a new country, adjusting to being far away from so many who she loved, she and her family continued to fear for the safety of those still in Haiti as the political situation deteriorated.	920L

<p><i>Little Brother</i> by Cory Doctorow</p>	<p>Marcus aka “w1n5t0n,” is only seventeen years old, but he figures he already knows how the system works. He has no trouble outwitting his high school’s intrusive surveillance systems, but his whole world changes when he and his friends find themselves caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco. The city has become a police state where every citizen is treated like a potential terrorist. He knows that no one will believe his story, which leaves him only one option: "M1k3y" will take down the DHS himself.</p>	<p>900L</p>
<p><i>Homer and Langley</i> by E.L. Doctorow</p>	<p>Homer and Langley Collyer are brothers—the one blind and deeply intuitive, the other damaged into madness, or perhaps greatness, by mustard gas in the Great War. They live as recluses in their once grand Fifth Avenue mansion, scavenging the city streets for things they think they can use, hoarding the daily newspapers as research for Langley’s proposed dateless newspaper whose reportage will be as prophecy. Even though they want nothing more than to shut out the world, history seems to pass through their cluttered house and their housebound lives are fraught with odyssean peril as they struggle to survive and create meaning for themselves.</p>	<p>880L</p>
<p><i>Wintergirls</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson</p>	<p>Lia and Cassie are best friends, wintergirls frozen in fragile bodies, competitors in a deadly contest to see who can be the thinnest. But then Cassie suffers the ultimate loss—her life—and Lia is left behind, haunted by her friend's memory, and feeling guilty for not being able to help save her.</p>	<p>730L</p>
<p><i>The Bonesetter’s Daughter</i> by Amy Tan</p>	<p>Ruth struggles growing up as the child of a single parent who believes in curses and ghosts. Once Ruth learns the details of her mother's past, she gains a new understanding of her and her seemingly erratic behavior. Answers to both women's problems unfold as Lu Ling's story is finally revealed in its entirety.</p>	<p>800L</p>
<p><i>Kindred</i> by Octavia Butler</p>	<p>“I lost an arm on my last trip home. My left arm.”Dana’s torment begins when she suddenly vanishes on her 26th birthday from California, 1976, and is dragged through time to antebellum Maryland to rescue a boy named Rufus, heir to a slaveowner’s plantation. She soon realizes the purpose of her summons to the past: protect Rufus to ensure his assault of her Black ancestor so that she may one day be born. As she endures the traumas of slavery and the soul-crushing normalization of savagery, Dana fights to keep her autonomy and return to the present.</p>	<p>580L</p>
<p><i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> by Ernest J. Gaines</p>	<p>Set in the rural south in the 1940s during Jim Crow laws and racial segregation, Gaines's eighth novel, <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>, tells the story of a falsely-accused young black man on death row and a Louisiana-born, college educated teacher who visits him in prison and helps him regain his dignity.</p>	<p>750L</p>

## 12th Grade Summer Reading List:

### REQUIRED READING:

Title & Author:	Synopsis:
<i>The Kite Runner</i> by Khaled Hosseini	1970s Afghanistan: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what would happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realizes that one day he must return to an Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.

### CHOOSE ONE FROM THE SELECTIONS BELOW:

Title & Author:	Synopsis:	Reading Level:
<i>The Namesake</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri	Meet the Ganguli family, new arrivals from Calcutta, trying their best to become Americans even as they pine for home. The name they bestow on their firstborn, Gogol, betrays all the conflicts of honoring tradition in a new world — conflicts that will haunt Gogol on his own winding path through divided loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs.	1210L
<i>Life of Pi</i> by Yann Martel	Piscine "Pi" Patel is a young Indian man whose family of zookeepers decides to immigrate to Canada due to the political instability in India. However, their ship is capsized by a storm, causing the deaths of everyone on board except Pi, who escapes on a lifeboat with Richard Parker, a Bengal tiger. Pi forms a tentative alliance with Richard Parker, and together they manage to overcome the many perils of the ocean and make their way back to shore.	830L
<i>Girl With a Pearl Earring</i> by Tracy Chevalier	A poor seventeenth-century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town. 20,000 first printing.	770L
<i>She's Come Undone</i> by Wally Lamb	Meet Dolores Price. She's 13, wise-mouthed but wounded, having bid her childhood goodbye. Stranded in front of her bedroom TV, she spends the next few years nourishing herself with the Mallomars, potato chips, and Pepsi her anxious mother supplies. When she finally orbits into young womanhood at 257 pounds, Dolores is no stronger and life is no kinder. But this time she's determined to rise to the occasion and give herself one more chance.	760L
<i>Identical</i> by Ellen Hopkins	Kaeleigh and Raeanne are identical.. As daughters of a district-court	590L

	judge father and a politician mother, they are an all-American family—on the surface. Behind the facade each sister has her own dark secret, and that's where their differences begin.	
<i>Run</i> by Ann Patchett	Set over a period of twenty-four hours, <i>Run</i> shows us how worlds of privilege and poverty can coexist only blocks apart from each other, and how family can include people you've never even met.	930L
<i>Raider's Night</i> by Robert Lipsyte	The pressure is on. At Nearmont High School, football stars are treated like royalty, and Matt Rydek has just ascended to the throne. As co-captain of the Raiders, he's got it all, or so it seems. If he can keep his eye on the ball now, his future will be set, with a full ride to a Division One school, a shot at the pros, and most important his dad off his back. But when the team turns on one of its own, should Matt play by Raiders rules, or should he go long alone?	880L
<i>Shattering Glass</i> by Gail Giles	Simon Glass is a nerd who occupies the lowest rung on the high school social ladder. Everyone picks on him—until Rob Haynes shows up. Rob, a transfer student with charisma to spare, immediately becomes the undisputed leader of the senior class. And he has plans for Simon. Rob enlists the help of his crew in a mission: turn sniveling Simon from total freak to would-be prom king. But as Simon rises to the top of the social ranks, he shows a devious side that Rob did not anticipate. And when Simon uncovers a dangerous secret, events darken.	590L
<i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> - Jesmyn Ward	Jojo is thirteen years old and trying to understand what it means to be a man. His mother, Leonie, is in constant conflict with herself and those around her. Embattled in ways that reflect the brutal reality of her circumstances, she wants to be a better mother, but can't put her children above her own needs, especially her drug use.	840L
<i>Americanah</i> - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.	940L