

New Caney ISD  
Middle School  
Summer  
Reading List for  
2009

(WOMS and  
KCMS students  
going into the  
7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>  
grades)

In accordance with the letter that was sent home . . .

**INCOMING 7<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Please read one book from the 2009-2010 Texas Lone Star Reading List if you are in regular ELA classes. If you are in Pre AP ELA classes, please read two books from the list.

**INCOMING 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Please read one book from the 2009-2010 Texas Lone Star Reading List if you are in regular ELA classes. If you are in Pre AP ELA classes, please read two books. One from the 2009-2010 Texas Lone Star Reading List and one from the Classics list provided.

2009 – 2010 Texas Lone Star Reading List



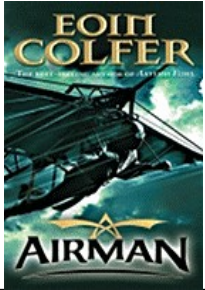


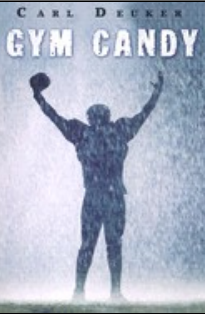

Bodeen, S.A. ***The Compound.***

Eli's multi-billionaire father has prepared a compound for their family in case of a nuclear attack. When Dad gets word that the attack is eminent, the whole family goes underground. As each year passes their supplies and tolerance for each other dwindle until Eli must decide just how far he will go to survive.



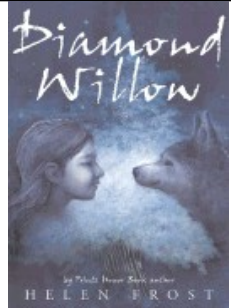
Brande, Robin. ***Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature.***

Mena, ostracized at church, home, and school for writing a letter of apology to a gay teen who was harassed into trying to kill himself by her fundamentalist friends, struggles to find her way when new friends and school experiences force her to think about what she really believes.

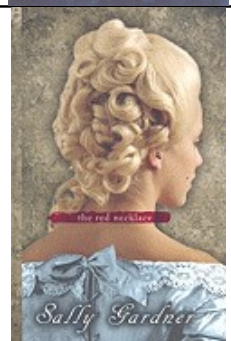
	<p>Colfer, Eoin. <b><i>Airman</i></b>.  When Conor Broekhart is wrongly imprisoned for a murder he did not commit, he plots his escape and creates a plan for a flying machine which he hopes will help him in his attempt to clear his name.</p>
	<p>Collins, Suzanne. <b><i>The Hunger Games</i></b>.  When 16 year old Katniss's beloved younger sister is chosen by lottery to represent her district at the Hunger Games, Katniss steps up to go in her place. There, she and her district partner are pitted against teens from all the districts in Panem in a brutal kill or be killed fight for survival.</p>
	<p>Connor, Leslie. <b><i>Waiting for Normal</i></b>.  Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.</p>
	<p>Deuker, Carl. <b><i>Gym Candy</i></b>.  Mick Johnson will do anything to be the best football player, even take steroids. He knows the risk but nothing is more important than the game.</p>
	<p>Dowd, Siobhan. <b><i>The London Eye Mystery</i></b>.  When Ted and Kat take their cousin Salim to ride the popular ferris wheel, the London Eye, he gets on but never gets off. How could he have simply vanished? Ted, whose brain is "wired differently," and Kat must put together the clues to figure out what happened Salim.</p>



Freitas, Donna. ***The Possibilities of Sainthood.***  
While regularly petitioning the Vatican to make her the first living saint, fifteen-year-old Antonia Labella prays to assorted patron saints for everything from help with preparing the family's fig trees for a Rhode Island winter to getting her first kiss from the right boy.



Frost, Helen. ***Diamond Willow.***  
In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her.



Gardner, Sally. ***The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution.***  
After performing in a magic show at a private party hosted by a count, considered by some to be the devil, Yann Margoza, a young gypsy, finds himself in a sweeping adventure in which he befriends a lonely heiress, dodges a bullet and gets caught up in the French Revolution.



Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Found (The Missing, Book One).***  
Jonah and his friend Chip, both adopted 13 years ago, begin receiving mysterious letters claiming they are among the "missing" and in great danger. The boys must figure out who they are and where they came from before it's too late.



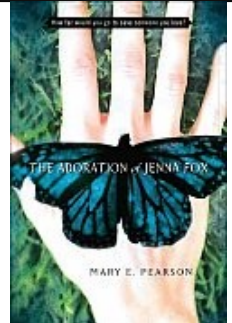
Herlong, M.H. ***The Great Wide Sea.***  
Ben's life is turned upside down when his mother is killed unexpectedly. Much to his surprise and dismay his father sells all their belongings, purchases a boat, and takes Ben and his younger brothers on a yearlong sailing trip. Things go from bad to worse when the boys wake up one morning to find their father missing from the boat while at sea.



Higgins, F.E. ***The Black Book of Secrets.***  
After narrowly escaping a horrible fate at the hands of his cruel parents, Ludlow Fitch finds himself in the company of a mysterious pawnbroker who trades people's deepest, darkest secrets for cash. As Ludlow works as the pawnbroker's apprentice, he begins to trust him. But he must decide if he can trust the pawnbroker enough to share his own dark secrets.



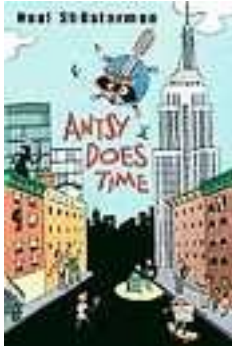
Meehl, Brian. ***Suck It Up.***  
Morning McCobb, recent graduate of the IV League and a vegan vampire, is on a mission to change the public perception of vampires from bloodthirsty killers to something more heroic.



Pearson, Mary E. ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox.***  
After an accident and year-long coma, seventeen-year-old Jenna awakens to a life she does not remember. Her parents describe the past, but the memories are slow to come. What does come are more questions: Who is Jenna Fox? And, what really happened after the accident?



Pfeffer, Susan Beth. ***the dead and the gone.***  
After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City.



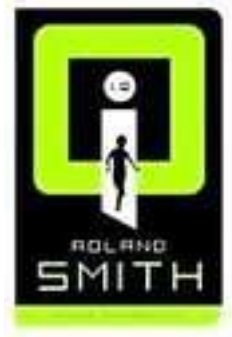
Shusterman, Neal. ***Antsy Does Time.***

When Antsy discovers that classmate Gunnar is suffering from a terminal illness, he offers to give Gunnar a month of his life. Others want to donate months, and Antsy starts trading time like stocks on Wall Street! All of this plus the attention of Gunnar's gorgeous older sister, stressful hours at his parents' restaurant, and a visit from an overbearing aunt create one wild ride for Antsy Bonano!



Shusterman, Neal. ***Unwind.***

In a futuristic world where parents can have their children unwound between the ages of 13 and 18, three teenagers on their way to a harvest camp escape this fate and are swept into an underground network that helps Unwinds fight for their very survival.



Smith, Roland. ***I, Q.: Independence Hall.***

Q and his new stepsister Angela are following their rock star parents on tour. But someone is following them.



Ziegler, Jennifer. ***How Not to be Popular.***

When Maggie moves with her parents yet again, she vows to avoid making friends this time so she won't experience heartbreak when she must leave them behind. She launches Operation Avoid Friends at her new high school in Austin, but the results are not at all what she expects.

**Pre AP students moving to the 8th Grade are asked to read one (1) of the following classic titles in addition to one (1) Novel from the Lone Star List (above).**

Reviews below are adapted from reviews posted on Amazon.com.

## **The Classics**

### ***Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley**

"Community, Identity, Stability" is the motto of Aldous Huxley's utopian World State. Here everyone consumes daily grams of soma, to fight depression, babies are born in laboratories, and the most popular form of entertainment is a "Feelie," a movie that stimulates the senses of sight, hearing, and touch. Though there is no violence and everyone is provided for, Bernard Marx feels something is missing and senses his relationship with a young woman has the potential to be much more than the confines of their existence allow.

### ***The Color Purple* – Alice Walker**

Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, beginning at age 14 when she is being sexually abused by her father and attempts to protect her sister from the same fate. It then moves to her marriage with "Mister," a brutal man who terrorizes her. Celie eventually learns that her abusive husband has been keeping her sister's letters from her. The rage she feels, combined with an example of love and independence provided by her close friend Shug, pushes her finally toward an awakening of her creative and loving self.

### ***The Awakening*--Kate Chopin**

This is the story of a married woman's emotional journey. Young Edna Pontellier feels trapped in her life with husband, Leonce—even though they have money. Then during one summer on vacation in Grand Isle, an island off the coast of Louisiana, she meets a man who makes her want to be free. Edna begins to change...will she lose her marriage because of her feelings?

### ***Cry the Beloved Country* – Alan Paton**

In search of missing family members, Zulu priest Stephen Kumalo leaves his South African village to traverse the deep and perplexing city of Johannesburg in the 1940s. With his sister turned prostitute, his brother turned labor protestor and his son, Absalom, arrested for the murder of a white man, Kumalo must grapple with how to bring his family back from the brink of destruction as the racial tension throughout Johannesburg hampers his attempts to protect his family. With a deep yet gentle voice rounded out by his English accent, Michael York captures the tone and energy of this novel. His rhythmic narration proves hypnotizing. From the fierce love of Kumalo to the persuasive rhetoric of Kumalo's brother and the solemn regret of Absalom, York injects soul into characters tempered by their socioeconomic status as black South Africans.

### ***Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton**

The main characters in the novel are Ethan Frome, his wife Zenobia, called Zeena, and her young cousin Mattie Silver. Frome and Zeena marry after she nurses his mother in her last illness. Although Frome seems ambitious and intelligent, Zeena holds him back. When her young cousin Mattie comes to stay on their New England farm, Frome falls in love with her. But the social conventions of the day doom their love and their hopes. The story forcefully conveys Wharton's abhorrence of society's unbending standards of loyalty.

***As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner**

Faulkner uses many characters and their inner psychological voices to tell the story of the Bundren family. In the story, the members of the Bundren family must take the body of Addie, matriarch (mother) of the family, to the town where Addie wanted to be buried. Along the way, we listen to each of the members tell their thoughts, while they face problem after problem in getting to the town.

***A Farewell to Arms* – Ernest Hemmingway**

This is the novel that made Hemingway a literary star. Set in Italy during wartime, it tells the difficult and bittersweet story of love between a soldier and a nurse. It remains a great book of war and love.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls* – Ernest Hemmingway**

*For Whom the Bell Tolls* combines two of the author's recurring obsessions: war and personal honor. The pivotal battle scene involving El Sordo's last stand is a showcase for Hemingway's narrative powers, but the quieter, ongoing conflict within Robert Jordan as he struggles to fulfill his mission perhaps at the cost of his own life is a testament to his creator's psychological understanding.

***Emma* – Jane Austen**

Emma Woodhouse is a young woman in Regency England. She lives with her father, a hypochondriac (person who thinks they are sick all the time), who is also excessively concerned for the health and safety of his loved ones. Emma's friend and only critic is the gentlemanly Mr. Knightley, her "neighbour" and brother of her sister's husband. A romance ensues.

***The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck**

The novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America. Although it follows the movement of thousands of men and women and the transformation of an entire nation, *The Grapes of Wrath* is also the story of one Oklahoma family, the Joads, who are driven off their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a very human drama.

***Gulliver's Travels* – Jonathan Swift**

The novel is the story of Lemuel Gulliver, a surgeon and sea captain who visits remote regions of the world. In the beginning Gulliver is shipwrecked on Lilliput, where people are six inches tall. His second voyage takes him to Brobdingnag, where lives a race of giants of great practicality who do not understand figurative language. Gulliver's third voyage takes him to the flying island of Laputa and the nearby continent and capital of Lagado. There he finds very intellectual people obsessed with their own knowledge who talk of nothing else. At Glubdubdrib, the Island of Sorcerers, he speaks with great men of the past and learns from them the lies of history. He also meets the Struldbrugs, who are immortal and, as a result, utterly miserable. In the extremely bitter fourth part, Gulliver visits the land of the Houyhnhnms, a race of intelligent, virtuous horses served by brutal, filthy, and degenerate creatures called Yahoos.

***Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad**

Marlow decides he wants nothing more than to be the skipper of a steamship that travels up and down a river in Africa. His aunt has a connection in the Administration Department of a seafaring and exploration company that gathers ivory, and she manages to get Marlow an appointment. He replaces a captain who was killed in a skirmish with the natives. He embarks on a difficult journey filled with tragic sights.

***The House on Mango Street* – Sandra Cisneros**

Esperanza Cordero, a girl coming of age in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, uses poems

and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.

***Invisible Man* – Ralph Ellison**

*Invisible Man* chronicles the travels of its narrator, a young, nameless black man, as he moves through the hellish levels of American intolerance and cultural blindness. Searching for a context in which to know himself, he exists in a very peculiar state. "I am an invisible man," he says in his prologue. "When they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination--indeed, everything and anything except me." As the book gets started, the narrator is kicked out of his Southern Negro college for inadvertently showing a white trustee the reality of black life in the south. What follows is a search for what truth actually is, which proves to be a really hard thing to nail down.

***Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Bronte**

Rochester, the masculine beast whom Jane eventually falls for, is a man who sets his own laws and manipulates the lives of those around him; and so, before he can enter into a marriage of equals with Jane he must undergo a change in his character. Should the lesson sound dry, it's not. *Jane Eyre* is full of drama: fires, storms, attempted murder, and a secret that lives in the attic. This is very sexy stuff – especially in the 1800s, another reason Victorian critics weren't quite sure what to make of it.

***The Joy Luck Club* – Amy Tan**

In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. They call themselves the Joy Luck Club. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Through their eyes the reader sees what it was like for these women to grow up in China, and how different it is for their daughters growing up in America. Think *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* meets the *Divine Secrets of the Ya-ya Sisterhood* with an Asian twist.

***The Jungle*–Upton Sinclair**

Upton Beall Sinclair's wrote this novel after he was given \$500 to write a fiction series comparing northern paid jobs in factories to the South's slave system before The Civil War. *The Jungle* interprets the hardships of immigrant and ethnic workers in an industrial meatpacking plant in Chicago during the turn of the century in the United States. The findings, which confirmed Sinclair's account, prompted Congress to pass both the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.

***Little Women* – Louisa May Alcott**

*Little Women* is a novel published in 1868 and written by American author Louisa May Alcott. The story concerns the lives and loves of four sisters growing up during the American Civil War. It was based on Alcott's own experiences as a child in Boston and Concord, Massachusetts, with her three sisters, Amy (May), Meg (Anna), and Beth (Elizabeth).

***The Member of the Wedding* – Carson McCullers**

Twelve-year-old Frankie Adams, longing at once for escape and belonging, takes her role as "member of the wedding" to mean that when her older brother marries she will join the happy couple in their new life together. But Frankie is unlucky in love; Worst of all, "member of the wedding" doesn't mean what she thinks. A gorgeous, brief coming-of-age novel.

***A Passage to India* – E. M. Forster**

When Adela and her elderly companion Mrs. Moore arrive in the Indian town of Chandrapore, they quickly feel trapped by its prejudiced British community. Determined to explore the real India, they seek the guidance of the charming and mercurial Dr. Aziz, a cultivated Indian Muslim. But a mysterious incident occurs while they are exploring the Marabar caves with Aziz, and the well-respected doctor soon

finds himself at the centre of a scandal.

***The Picture of Dorian Gray* – Oscar Wilde**

After Basil Hallward paints a beautiful, young man's portrait, his subject, Dorian Gray, wishes that he will always look like the picture does at that moment, and only the picture will change. Little does he know that his wish will come true. Dorian Gray's picture grows aged and corrupt while he continues to appear fresh and innocent, but at what cost?

***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry**

*A Raisin in the Sun* is a play by Lorraine Hansberry. It is the Youngers, a struggling African-American family whose members deal with poverty, racism, and painful conflict among themselves as they reach for a better life.

***The Return of the Native* – Thomas Hardy**

It tells the story of an idealistic and intellectual young man, Clym Yeobright, who abandons the ambitious goals set for him by his strong-minded mother, after becoming infatuated with a free-spirited, sensuous woman, Eustacia Vye, in a wild and lonely place.

***Moby Dick* – Herman Melville**

This thrilling adventure and epic saga pits Ahab, a brooding sea captain, against the great white whale that crippled him. More than just the tale of a hair-raising voyage, Melville's riveting story passionately probes man's soul.

***A Separate Peace* – John Knowles**

Sharing a room at Devon, an exclusive New England prep school, in the summer prior to World War II, Gene and Phineas form a complex bond of friendship that draws out both the best and worst characteristics of each boy and leads ultimately to violence, a confession, and the betrayal of trust.

***The Sound and the Fury* – William Faulkner**

The novel is set in Faulkner's fictional Yoknapatawpha County, Miss., in the early 20th century. It describes the decay and fall of the aristocratic Compson family, and of an entire social order, from four different points of view. The first three sections are presented from the perspectives of the three Compson sons: Benjy, an "idiot"; Quentin, a suicidal Harvard freshman; and Jason, the eldest. Each section is focused primarily on a sister who has married and left home. The fourth section comments on the other three as the Compsons' black servants, whose chief virtue is their endurance, reveal the family's moral decline.

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte**

In this novel a pair of narrators, Mr. Lockwood and Nelly Dean, relate the story of Heathcliff's arrival at Wuthering Heights, and the close-knit bond he forms with his benefactor's daughter, Catherine Earnshaw. They get along very well, and seem spiritually connected, but they are social unequals, and the saga of frustrated yearning and destruction that follows Catherine's refusal to marry Heathcliff is unique in the English canon.