

**2010 Summer Reading List
Chenango Forks High School**

Title: *Wintergirls*

Author: Laurie Halse Anderson

Summary: Lia and Cassie were best friends, wintergirls frozen in matchstick bodies. But now Cassie is dead. Lia's mother is busy saving other people's lives. Her father is away on business. Her stepmother is clueless. And the voice inside Lia's head keeps telling her to remain in control, stay strong, lose more, weigh less. If she keeps on going this way – thin, thinner, thinnest – maybe she'll disappear altogether.

Title: *First Family*

Author: David Baldacci

Summary: A daring kidnapping turns a children's birthday party at Camp David into a national security nightmare, pushing agents Sean King and Michelle Maxwell to their limits.

Title: *Coraline*

Author: Neil Gaiman

Summary: Graphic novel. Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Title: *Looks*

Author: Madeleine George

Summary: Meghan Ball is both the most visible and the most invisible person in school. Her massive size is impossible to ignore, yet people freely spill their secrets in front of her, perhaps because they think she isn't listening. But she is. Now her attention has turned to a new girl: Aimee Zorn, with her stick-figure body and defiant attitude. Meghan is determined to befriend Aimee, and when she ultimately succeeds, the two join forces to take down their shared enemy. This provocative story explores the ways in which girls use food and their bodies to say what they cannot: I'm lonely.

Title: *The Alchemist*

Author: Paulo Coelho

Summary: Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its simplicity and wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of treasure buried in the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an Alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles along the way but what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a meditation on the treasures found within.

Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts.

Title: *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*

Author: Jared Diamond

Summary: Traces the development of primitive societies showing why some groups advanced more rapidly than others and how this progression explains why various populations stabilize at specific phases of development while others continue to evolve.

Title: *Grow 'em Right: a guide to creating habitat and food plots*

Author: Neil Dougherty

Summary: A comprehensive, easy-to-follow guide book on how to create quality deer hunting through habitat development and food plots.

Title: *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*

Author: Adam Hochschild

Summary: Adam Hochschild's award winning, heart haunting account of the brutal plunder of the Congo by Leopold II of Belgium presents a megalomaniac of monstrous proportions, a royal figure as cunning, charming, and cruel as any of Shakespeare's great villains. It is also the deeply moving portrait of those who fought Leopold: a brave, committed handful of idealists, missionaries, travelers, diplomats, and African villagers who found themselves witnesses to and, in too many instances, victims of a holocaust.

Title: *Across Five Aprils*

Author: Irene Hunt

Summary: Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

Title: *Under the Dome*

Author: Stephen King

Summary: On an entirely normal, beautiful fall day in Chester's Mill, Maine, the town is inexplicably and suddenly sealed off from the rest of the world by an invisible force field. Planes crash into it and fall from the sky in flaming wreckage, a gardener's hand is severed as "the dome" comes down on it, people running errands in the neighboring town are divided from their families, and cars explode on impact. No one can fathom what this barrier is, where it came from, and when -- or if -- it will go away. Dale Gribble, Iraq vet and now a short-order cook, finds himself teamed with a few intrepid citizens -- town newspaper owner Julia Shumway, a physician's assistant at the hospital, a select-woman, and three brave kids. Against them stands Big Jim Rennie, a politician who will stop at nothing -- even murder -- to hold the reins of power, and his son, who is keeping a horrible secret in a dark pantry. But their main adversary is the Dome itself. Because time isn't just short. It's running out.

Title: *Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Ever Seen*

Author: Christopher McDougall

Summary: McDougall reveals the secrets of the world's greatest distance runners--the Tarahumara Indians of Copper Canyon, Mexico--and how he trained for the challenge of a lifetime: a fifty-mile race through the heart of Tarahumara country pitting the tribe against an odd band of super-athletic Americans.

Title: *Frankenstein: The Prodigal Son*

Author: Dean Koontz

Summary: From the celebrated imagination of Dean Koontz comes a powerful reworking of one of the classic stories of all time. If you think you know the story, you know only half the truth. Get ready for the mystery, the myth, the terror, and the magic of... Dean Koontz's Prodigal Son.

Every city has secrets. But none as terrible as this. His name is Deucalion, a tattooed man of mysterious origin, a sleight-of-reality artist who has traveled the centuries with a secret worse than death. He arrives as a serial killer stalks the streets, a killer who carefully selects his victims for the humanity that is missing in himself. Detective Carson O'Connor is cool, cynical, and every bit as tough as she looks. Her partner Michael Maddison would back her up all the way to Hell itself and that just may be where this case ends up. For the no-nonsense O'Connor is suddenly talking about an ages-old conspiracy, a near immortal race of beings, and killers that are more and less than human. Soon it will be clear that as crazy as she sounds, the truth is even more ominous. For their quarry isn't merely a homicidal maniac but his deranged maker.

Title: *The Poisonwood Bible*

Author: Barbara Kingsolver

Summary: The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives transformed over the course of three decades.

Title: *Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10*

Author: Marcus Luttrell

Summary: The leader, and only survivor, of a team of U.S. Navy SEALs sent to northern Afghanistan to capture a well-known al Qaeda leader chronicles the events of the battle that killed his teammates and offers insight into the training of this elite group of warriors.

Title: *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother*

Author: James McBride

Summary: James McBride shares the story of his mother's life and complicated racial identity which he only learned after becoming an adult. He tells of her infancy in Poland as the daughter of an Orthodox Jewish rabbi, her childhood in small-town Virginia, her move to Harlem at the

age of eighteen, her marriage to an African-American man, her achievements as a wife and mother to twelve children, and her refusal to ever admit she is white.

Title: *The Forgotten Garden*

Author: Kate Morton

Summary: After discovering that she was abandoned by her birthmother in 1913, Nell embarks on a life-long quest to discover her true identity. When she dies, her granddaughter takes up her plight.

Title: *When the Wind Blows*

Author: James Patterson

Summary: In the book that started it all, Frannie O'Neal, a young and talented veterinarian whose husband was recently murdered, has just made a startling discovery in the woods near the animal hospital where she works. Soon after, Kit Harrison — an anxious and unconventional FBI agent — arrives on Frannie's doorstep. These two troubled people come together to learn the secret of what is happening in the woods — and the truth behind 11-year-old Max, Frannie's amazing discovery and one of the most unforgettable creations in thriller fiction.

Title: *Plain Truth*

Author: Jodi Piccoult

Summary: Philadelphia defense attorney Ellie Hathaway, unsatisfied with the course of her career and personal life, leaves her job for an open-ended stay at her great-aunt's home in Paradise, Pennsylvania, arriving just in time to become embroiled in the case of a young, unmarried Amish woman accused of killing her newborn baby.

Title: *Roving Mars*

Author: Steve Squyres

Summary: Steve Squyres provides an account of the Mars Exploration Rover mission for which he served as principal scientist, discussing the challenges involved in the design and construction of the two rovers "Spirit" and "Opportunity," and sharing the excitement he and others at Jet Propulsion Laboratory felt when the vehicles began relaying information about the Red Planet.

Title: *In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the extraordinary story of its survivors*

Author: Doug Stanton

Summary: Tells the story of the "USS Indianapolis," a battle cruiser torpedoed in the South Pacific by a Japanese submarine on July 30, 1945, shortly after delivering parts of the atom bomb that would be dropped on Hiroshima; and discusses the heroic struggles of sailors who survived the blast to stay alive in the sea for nearly five days before help arrived.

Title: *The Art of War*

Author: Sun Tzu

Summary: Twenty-Five Hundred years ago, Sun Tzu wrote this classic book of military strategy based on Chinese warfare and military thought. Since that time, all levels of military have used the teaching on Sun Tzu in warfare, and civilizations have adapted his philosophy for use in politics, business and everyday life. *The Art of War* is a book which should be used to gain advantage of opponents in the boardroom and battlefield alike.

Title: *Uglies*

Author: Scott Westerfeld

Summary: Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license -- for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world -- and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. The choice Tally makes changes her world forever.