

Dear Students and Parents,

One major goal of the Pomperaug High School English Department is to help students develop the passion and reading skills necessary to become life-long readers. We work on this throughout the school year; however, during school, much of the students' reading material is selected for them by us.

The summer reading program expands the reach of this goal beyond the classroom and offers students guidance for their independent reading. This brochure is designed to offer students a variety of resources that will help them to discover their personal reading preferences and broaden their reading horizons.

We know that readers use literature to help them understand themselves and their world. It is our hope that this brochure will help students locate and recognize good literature to help them achieve this purpose.

Perhaps this summer you can have some shared experiences; read a book together as a family, go to the theater, surf the net and enjoy!

Happy Reading!
the PHS English Teachers

Some books to consider...

Life of Pi, Yann Martel FROM THE PUBLISHER

Life of Pi is a masterful and utterly original novel that is at once the story of a young castaway who faces immeasurable hardships on the high seas, and a meditation on religion, faith, art and life that is as witty as it is profound... Growing up in Pondicherry, India, Piscine Molitor Patel -- known as Pi -- has a rich life. Bookish by nature, young Pi acquires a broad knowledge of not only the great religious texts but of all literature, and has a great curiosity about how the world works. His family runs the local zoo, and he spends many of his days among goats, hippos, swans, and bears, developing his own theories about the nature of animals and how human nature conforms to it... Choosing to move to Canada, they close the zoo, pack their belongings, and board a Japanese cargo ship... However, they have only just begun their journey when the ship sinks, taking the dreams of the Patel family down with it. Only Pi survives, cast adrift in a lifeboat with the unlikeliest of traveling companions... Thus begins Pi Patel's epic, 227-day voyage across the Pacific, and the powerful story of faith and survival at the heart of *Life of Pi*... It is during the most hopeless and grueling days of his voyage that Pi whittles to the core of his beliefs, casts off his own assumptions, and faces his underlying terrors head-on.

Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut FROM THE PUBLISHER

Slaughterhouse-Five is one of the world's great anti-war books. Centering on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know. Unstuck in time, Billy Pilgrim, Vonnegut's shattered survivor of the Dresden bombing, relives his life over and over again under the gaze of aliens; he comes at last to some understanding of the human comedy. The basis of George Roy's great 1972 film and perhaps the signature student's novel in the 1960's embracing protest and the absurdity of war.

Some authors to consider...

- Horror: Dean Koontz
Stephen King
- Military: Dale Brown
Tom Clancy
Michael Crichton
- Male: Khaled Hosseini
Salman Rushdie
- Female: Nora Roberts
Sue Monk Kidd
Amy Tan
Helen Fielding
Barbara Kingsolver
Leslie Marmon Silko
- Mystery: John Grisham
Michael Connelly
- Advice: Rachel Simmons
- Sci-Fi: Isaac Asimov
Philip K. Dick
Robert Heinlein
H. G. Wells

Ways to find books...

www.biblio.org/middlebury The website for the Middlebury Library.

www.biblio.org/southbury The website for the Southbury Library

www.ala.org Website of the American Library Association. Many book to choose from, as you might imagine.

www.pulitzer.org Lists of books that won Pulitzer prizes by category and by year. These are the heavy hitters of the reading world.

www.curledup.com As fun as it sounds. Reviews of many good books to curl up with.

www.marylaine.com/bookbyte This site was created by a mother/teacher/librarian. She has many book suggestions, reviews, and categories.

www.allreaders.com This site classifies and reviews books based on plot, setting, character, and writing style. Therefore, if you know what kind of book you like, you can find other authors who write similar kind of stories. Kind of neat!

www.teenlit.com Tons of suggestions for the teen crowd.

www.teenreads.com More suggestions for the teen crowd.

www.amazon.com Books reviewed by critics and readers alike. Information on the authors and suggestions for books of similar interest. A commercial site that doesn't just sell books.

www.barnesandnoble.com Reviews of books and information about the author. A commercial site that doesn't just sell books.

If you liked...

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, then you might like:
Pudd'nhead Wilson, by Mark Twain or
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, by Mark Twain

The Scarlet Letter, then you might like:
The House of Seven Gables, by Nathaniel Hawthorne or
Hobomok, by Lydia Maria Child

The Great Gatsby, then you might like:
The Last Tycoon, by F. Scott Fitzgerald or
The Day of the Locust, by Nathanael West

Black Like Me, then you might like:
Ceremony, by Leslie Marmon Silko or
Going to Meet the Man, by James Baldwin

Suggestions from friends...

POMPERAUG
HIGH
SCHOOL

SUMMER
READING

for students
entering
grade 12

