

# Torrance High School Junior Summer Reading List 2010-2011

Students who are life-long readers are more successful in their academic classes as well as in their careers after graduation. People who read well also write better, have larger vocabularies, score higher on tests, and communicate more effectively.

All juniors are required to read at least one book on this list prior to the first day of school. Students in English 3 Honors should read the two required novels for their course, and they should choose an additional choice from the list for a total of three books. The English Department has included a variety of authors to appeal to a broad spectrum of student interests. Some titles are recommended by the California Department of Education (CDE), American Library Association (ALA), and College Board (CB). Students need to complete the accompanying questionnaire and have it to turn in on the first day of class in the fall. Students will also be writing an essay based on their selection during the second week of school. The department suggests that parents and students together select thoughtfully and carefully from the list.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place – Aron Ralston: April 26, 2003: Aron Ralston, a twenty-seven-year-old solo mountaineer, finds his right hand and wrist trapped between a falling boulder and a canyon wall in Blue John Canyon, Utah. In an astounding testimony to courage and sheer will, Ralston keeps himself alive for six days. He fashions leggings to keep warm, drinks his urine when the water runs out, and—you'll remember this from the news reports—amputates his own arm so that he can start rappelling down the canyon walls! (347 pages)

Bleachers – John Grisham: This is a story about friends reuniting and individuals healing when they reunite over the impending death of a beloved football coach. (240 pages)

Blue Bloods – Melissa de la Cruz: Members of the popular clique at a prestigious private school in New York are known as Blue Bloods. What they don't know is that their common heritage is that of vampires who are continually reincarnated with beauty, charisma, and supernatural strength. (ALA: 336 pages)

Fast Food Nation – Eric Schlosser: Fast food has radically changed America's diet, landscape, economy, and workforce. It is disturbingly similar to Upton Sinclair's The Jungle. (CDE: 400 pages)

Jumped – Rita Williams-Garcia: Jumped is about a teenage girl who gets caught up in multiracial violence at her school. This fast-moving novel takes place in one day on a high school campus. (176 pages)

Life of Pi – Yann Martel: When sixteen year old Pi, his family, and their zoo animals leave India for Canada, a death-defying adventure begins, involving a sinking ship and a Bengal Tiger. (336 pages)

The Maze Runner – James Dashnell: A teenage boy who cannot remember his previous life finds himself in a new, unfriendly world called the Glade. He joins the other boys and girl there to solve the mystery of the Maze, which changes every night, so they can escape. (384 pages)

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac – Gabrielle Zevin: This is the contemporary story of a girl who has lost her memory, and is struggling to fit back into her old life with friends and school. (ALA: 304 pages)

Mr. Midshipman Hornblower – C. S. Forester: Traveling from place to place, ship to shore, command to command, Horation Hornblower sails the ocean during the Napoleonic Wars. (320 pages)

Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston: A classic of black literature, this is the story of Janie Crawford's evolving selfhood through three marriages. (CDE, ALA: 208 pages)

The Tribes of Palos Verdes – Joy Nicholson: A Midwestern high school student moves to Palos Verdes where she struggles with her family, her peers, and her dating relationships. (224 pages)

Wintergirls – Laurie Halse Anderson: Wintergirls is a powerful book about anorexia, narrated by a suffering teenage girl. (288 pages)

Woman Warriors – Maxine Hong Kingston: Growing up Chinese American in Stockton, California, the author has to reconcile her mother's traditional lessons with America's traditions and standards. (224 pages)

#### Required Reading For English 3 Honors:

The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath: This novel chronicles the crack-up of Esther Greenwood: brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under – maybe for the last time. (ALA, CB: 288 pages)

The Jungle – Upton Sinclair: A story about America's meatpacking industry in the early 1900s, this novel inspired change and standards for America's food products. (CDE: 352 pages)

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