



Summer Reading List for Staff

Created by Library Media Specialists from the Howard County Public School System and Librarians from the Howard County Library



FICTION

Alvarez, Julia. **HOW THE GARCIA GIRLS LOST THEIR ACCENTS** - This is the story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic. Adapting to American life is difficult and causes embarrassment when friends meet their parents, anger as they are bullied and called 'spics,' and identity confusion following summer trips to the family compound in the Dominican Republic. *School Library Journal*

Ephron, Amy. **A CUP OF TEA** - This is a love triangle based on an accidental meeting, set in New York City during World War I. *Amazon.com*

Goldberg, Myla. **BEE SEASON** - On the surface this is the story of Eliza Naumann, an average student, who surprises her family by winning and winning spelling competitions. Underneath, there is a painful story of a family falling apart and a poetic study of Jewish mysticism. *Amazon.com*

Maguire, Gregory. **WICKED: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST** - An astonishingly rich recreation of the land of Oz, this book retells the story of Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, who wasn't so wicked after all. *Barnes and Noble*

Michener, James. **JOURNEY** - The chance for untold riches sent thousands of dreamers on a perilous trek toward their fortunes, failures, or deaths. Follow four English aristocrats and their Irish servant as they misguidedly haul their dreams across cruel Canadian terrain toward the Klondike gold fields. *Amazon.com*

Munro, Alice. **HATESHIP, FRIENDSHIP, COURTSHIP, LOVESHIP, MARRIAGE: STORIES** - In this fairly conservative collection of nine stories, none of which move far beyond Munro's favored Canadian settings, there are glimpses of youth, but most of these pieces are stories of aging women and men, confronting the twin travails of death and late love. *Adapted from Publisher's Weekly and Amazon.com*

Oates, Joyce Carol. **WE WERE THE MULVANEYS** - Oates' latest novel is a tragic, compelling tale. She presents the saga of the fall of the House of Mulvaney. The Mulvaney's had been riding high; they lived on a prosperous farm in upstate New York and

lived well. Now an adult, Judd, the youngest Mulvaney, recounts the events during which "everything came apart for us and was never again put together in quite the same way." *Booklist*

Shields, Carol. **SMALL CEREMONIES** - Wife, mother, and biographer, Judith Gill finds her own life overshadowed by her need to observe and understand, becoming a woman whose world is shaped by the actions of others, until she discovers her own role as a translator and celebrant of life's small ceremonies. *Amazon.com*

Suri, Manil. **THE DEATH OF VISHNU** - A teeming apartment building in Bombay becomes a microcosm of a universe that includes all of mankind. Yet the vision is very specifically of India, depicting that country's rich mix of religions and cultures in a way that is at once poignant and profound. *Roberta Rood, Howard County Library*

Trollope, Joanna. **A SPANISH LOVER** - Love comes late but abundantly to Frances, long pitied by her twin sister and her family for always being an also-ran. Trollope is a clear-eyed recorder of the sudden domestic tempests that roil even the most placid backwaters of English life, tempests fueled by the ties of family affection and habit. *Kirkus Reviews*

Tyler, Anne. **BACK WHEN WE WERE GROWNUPS** - At the center of a tumultuous extended family stands Rebecca Davitch, a determinedly cheerful, plushly built, and obviously unfashionable woman in her early fifties. Rebecca has always been at everyone's beck and call, and now she wonders if she's accomplished anything of value. What would her life have been like if she'd married her studious college boyfriend, Will, instead of jilting him and abandoning her studies to marry Joe, sexy, older, and divorced, with a Baltimore row house, three young, skeptical daughters, and a business based on throwing parties for strangers? *Donna Seaman, adapted from Booklist and Amazon.com*



MYSTERY

Alexander, Bruce. **BLIND JUSTICE** - It is the late 1700's, and 13-year-old Jeremy Proctor, orphaned and penniless, has come to London in search of employment. Jeremy gets into trouble immediately. It is his good fortune, however, to be brought before Sir John

Fielding, a just and fair magistrate. He sees Jeremy's potential, and takes him into his household. Thus begins the great adventure of Jeremy Proctor's coming of age. (First in a series) *Roberta Rood, Howard County Library*
Buckley, Fiona. **TO SHIELD THE QUEEN** - Ursula Blanchard, an attractive and resourceful young widow, needs to find a way to support herself and her young daughter. Little does she suspect when she takes on the position of Lady in Waiting at the court of Queen Elizabeth that a moneymaking opportunity is about to present itself. The position will be both lucrative and very dangerous: She will become a spy for none other than the Queen herself. (First in a series) *Roberta Rood, Howard County Library*

Dams, Jeanne. **TO PERISH IN PENZANCE** - Rainy-day boredom leads sleuth Dorothy Martin, an American retired to England, to vacation in Cornwall with her British husband, a retired policeman. Once there, she zeroes in on the unsolved 1968 murder of an unidentified young woman. *Library Journal*

Evanovich, Janet. **ONE FOR THE MONEY** - Stephanie Plum is a bounty hunter with attitude. In Stephanie's opinion, toxic waste, rabid drivers, armed schizophrenics, August heat, humidity, and hydrocarbons are all part of the great adventure of living in Jersey. Out of work and out of money, Stephanie blackmails her bail bondsman cousin, Vinnie, into giving her a try as an apprehension agent. (First in a series) *Scribner, publisher*

James, P. D. **DEATH IN HOLY ORDERS** - This superb whodunit is set in an Anglican theological college on a desolate stretch of the East Anglian coast. When the body of one of the students is found on the shore, smothered by a fall of sand, his wealthy father demands that Scotland Yard should re-examine the verdict of accidental death. Commander Dalgliesh agrees to pay a visit and finds himself embroiled in one of the most horrific and puzzling cases of his career. *Adapted from the book jacket*

MacDonald, Ross. **THE ZEBRA-STRIPED HEARSE** - Colonel Blackwell's daughter Harriet is determined to marry against his wishes, so Blackwell asks private eye Lew Archer to dig up some dirt on his soon-to-be son-in-law. Things start simply enough, then quickly become Byzantine in their complexity. The pace never slackens as Archer follows the fragile thread of the truth through duplicity and

double cross, to the final shocking conclusion. *Roberta Rood, Howard County Library*

Mayor, Archer. **TUCKER PEAK** - A slew of burglaries and accidents at a ski resort in southern Vermont force the local sheriff to bring in Joe Gunther and his team from the Vermont Bureau of Investigation. This 12th Gunther mystery again vividly portrays the hardscrabble life of southern Vermont, with its ambivalence toward the ski industry that sustains much of the economy and its dependence on snow. *Library Journal*

Pears, Iain. **THE RAPHAEL AFFAIR** - British art historian Jonathan Argyll has a hunch that an obscure Mantini canvas hanging in the church actually conceals a lost Raphael painted beneath. The Mantini is already gone, sold to questionable British art dealer Sir Edward Byrnes, who promptly cleans, exhibits, and auctions it as the Raphael. Or is it? *Kirkus Reviews*

Rendell, Ruth. **PIRANHA TO SCURFY AND OTHER STORIES** - The title story draws us into the mind of a lonely man whose inability to please his mother makes him vulnerable to self-destruction. "The Professional" is a small gem with an ironic twist, notable for its acute insights into social class and status in England. But the best is saved for last: "High Mysterious Union," a tale that's like the weather in Rendell's typical English landscape: sunny at the start but increasingly dark and threatening as the plot thickens. The story's main character gets away with his life - barely, but it will take days before he gives you back your own. *Jane Adams, adapted from Amazon.com*

Tey, Josephine. **BRAT FARRAR** - Brat Farrar has been carefully coached to assume the identity of Patrick Ashby, heir to the Ashby fortune who disappeared when he was 13. Just when it seems that Brat will pull off the deception, he discovers the truth about Patrick's disappearance, a dark secret that threatens to tear apart the family and jeopardize Brat's carefully laid plans. *Amazon.com*



SCIENCE FICTION

Butler, Octavia. **PARABLE OF THE SOWER** - Written in diary form, "Parable" chronicles the grim adventures of Lauren Olamina, an adolescent girl living in a barricaded village in Southern California amid the rampant socioeconomic decay of the early twenty-first century. After her neighborhood is overrun by a cult of drug-demented pyromaniacs, Lauren takes to the road and bands together with other refugees of violent attacks. Withstanding fire and marauding

thieves, the group gradually makes its way toward refuge in Northern California, while Lauren wins converts to her homespun "Earthseed" philosophy--a creed espousing community survival for a future among the stars. *Carl Hays in Booklist*

Card, Orson Scott. **PASTWATCH** - Three time travelers from a ruined and doomed future Earth journey to the time of Columbus' landing, hoping to alter events so that the contact between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres will be less disastrous for the American Indians, indeed, for the whole world. At the heart of the book, however, is a marvelous, enormously powerful portrait of Columbus himself. *Roland Green in Booklist*

McDevitt, Jack. **DEEPSIX** - In 2223, scientists, tourists, and reporters swarm to witness the destruction of Maleiva III, aka Deepsix, by the rogue gas giant, Morgan's World. Scientists awaiting the collision believe they have discovered a tower on Deepsix and other signs of civilization. Spaceship pilot Priscilla "Hutch" Hutchins leads a team intent on learning what those signs really portend. Disaster strikes when the mission lander is lost in an earthquake. The survivors must trek across the planet to find a lander stranded during an earlier expedition. *Booklist*

Robinson, Spider. **CALLAHAN'S CROSSTIME SALOON** - Pun lovers, this is for you. Callahan's Place is the neighborhood tavern to all of time and space, where the regulars are anything but. Pull up a chair, grab a glass of your favorite, and listen to the stories spun by time travelers, cybernetic aliens, telepaths...and a bunch of regular folks on a mission to save the world, one customer at a time. *Amazon.com*



NONFICTION

Burke, James. **CIRCLES: FIFTY ROUND-TRIPS THROUGH HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, CULTURE** - Each chapter begins with one technological musing and follows a circuitous path through history back to itself. *Amazon.com*

Dubner, Stephen. **TURBULENT SOULS: A CATHOLIC SON'S RETURN TO HIS JEWISH FAMILY** - The author's mother and father were born and raised Jewish; both converted to Catholicism when they were in their twenties. While only vaguely aware of his parents' background, Dubner nevertheless felt increasingly drawn to Judaism. *Roberta Rood, Howard County Library*

Feiler, Bruce. **WALKING THE BIBLE: A JOURNEY BY LAND THROUGH THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES** - The author, who was raised as a Reform Jew in Savannah,

Georgia, was in search of a way to breathe life into the Bible stories he had read as a child. So, in the company of Israeli archeologist Avner Goren, he brings his quest to fruition in a journey through Turkey, Egypt and Israel. *Roberta Rood, Howard County Library*

Fox, Paula. **BORROWED FINERY** - Fox recounts the chaotic and often traumatic circumstances of her childhood. With parents too unstable and self-absorbed to care for her, she was shuffled from doorstep to boarding school, from New York to Cuba to Montreal. Her childhood was a roller coaster ride of uncertainty. *Library Journal*.

Hillenbrand, Laura. **SEABISCUIT** - Seabiscuit's rags-to-riches story is unparalleled in a sport known for its long shots. A nondescript little bay horse, Seabiscuit ran 50 races without distinction on the lowest rungs of racing's class ladder before dominating the sport in the late 1930s, when he reached a level of popularity that is utterly inconceivable today. *Dennis Dodge in Booklist*

McCullough, David. **JOHN ADAMS** - This life of Adams is an extraordinary portrait of an extraordinary man who has not received his due in America's early political history but whose life work significantly affected his country's future. In tracing Adams's life from childhood through his many critical, heroic, and selfless acts during the Revolution, his vice presidency under Washington, and his own term as president, the full measure of Adams, a man widely regarded in his time as the equal of Jefferson, Hamilton, and all of the other Founding Fathers, is revealed. *Thomas J. Baldino in Library Journal*

Shields, Carol. **JANE AUSTEN** - Penguin's wonderful series of "lives," biographies unique in their manageable length and careful pairing of subjects with authors who are themselves important creative figures, delights once again, this time with a pithy literary biography of Jane Austen by Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writer Shields. *Publishers Weekly*

Tedlow, Richard S. **GIANTS OF ENTERPRISE: SEVEN BUSINESS INNOVATORS AND THE EMPIRES THEY BUILT** - In elegant and engaging prose, the author recounts the life and times of seven extraordinary men of business: Andrew Carnegie, George Eastman, Henry Ford, Thomas Watson Sr., Charles Revson, Sam Walton and Robert Noyce. The reader can only be amazed by the audacity, creativity, and cunning they showed in their dealings with the world of business. Equally interesting are the glimpses into the personal lives of these immensely complicated and not always likeable individuals. This book is about

American history as well as the history of business, starting as it does with a late 19th century titan of industry and concluding with

one of Silicon Valley's most brilliant innovators. *Roberta Rood, Howard County Library*