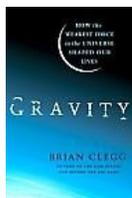


# Physics Concepts

## ***Gravity: How the Weakest Force In the Universe Shaped Our Lives* by Brian Clegg**



Gravity— we think we know about this very familiar and powerful force but, as British scientist, Brian Clegg explains, it is, in fact, one of the weakest forces of nature. He uses a conversational tone to explain how gravity works and how humanity came to understand it. (*nonfiction*)



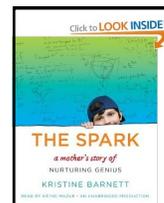
## ***Packing for Mars* by Mary Roach**



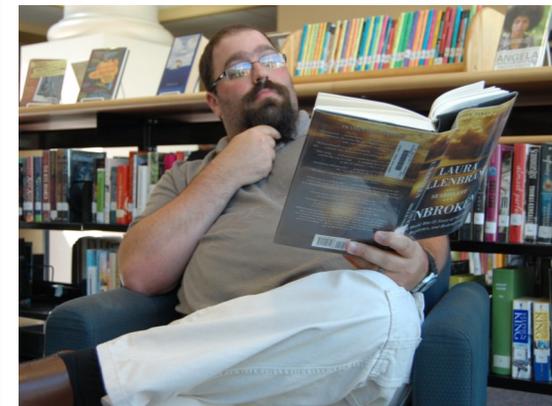
Space is a world devoid of the things we need to survive: air, gravity, hot showers, fresh produce, and privacy. To understand how humans deal with these conditions, space agencies set up all manner of quizzical and bizarre space simulations. As Mary Roach discovers, it's possible to preview space without ever leaving Earth. From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's space capsule (with a cadaver filling in for an astronaut), Roach takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth. (*nonfiction*)



## ***The Spark: A Mother's Story of Nurturing Genius* by Kristine Barnett**



What happens when you focus on the things that you *can* do rather than the things that you can't do? Kristine Barnett found out when she took this approach with her autistic son, Jacob. By age twelve, he became a paid researcher in quantum physics! This is a remarkable story about the power of love and courage in the face of overwhelming obstacles. (*memoir*)



Hamden High School

Summer Reading  
List

Incoming Juniors  
2013

## The Purpose

---

Research has shown that students who read during the summer improve their vocabulary and increase their reading skills while students who do not read lose an average of three months in academic skills each year. For this reason, Hamden High School students are required to read a minimum of two books over the summer.

For each grade, students are given a list of nine titles from which to choose their two required books. The titles are linked to the curriculum, so students will be better prepared for upcoming course material and more confident in their ability to add to class discussions.

## The Requirement: Read Two Books

---

During the summer vacation, incoming seniors at Hamden High School must read at least two books from any of the nine on this list.

Summer reading contributes to the first marking period grade in English through an assessment given in September. Students are encouraged to take notes to help them on their assignment.

## Themes in American Literature

---

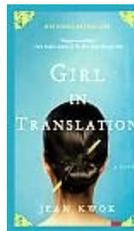
### ***The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande**



Born into extreme poverty in Mexico, Reyna Grande chronicles her life as the child of parents who left their family for opportunities to work in the US. At the age of nine, she crossed the border illegally to join her parents. Her love of reading and writing provided a refuge from the heartache and confusion of family life. She became the first in her family to graduate from college. Reyna Grande tells her very powerful and important story gracefully and without self-pity. (*memoir*)



### ***Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok**



When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrated from Hong Kong to New York, life could not have been more different from what they had imagined or hoped. Exceptional student by day, sweatshop worker by night, the fate of Kim's family rests on her shoulders. Refusing to be tied to the factory and the life that comes with it, she decides that there must be another path they could take in life. Once her mind is set, the cycle is broken. (*fiction*)



### ***Native Son* by Richard Wright**



Right from the start, Bigger Thomas has been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it's for murder and rape. *Native Son* tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Richard Wright's novel is just as powerful today as when it was written -- in its reflection of poverty and hopelessness, and what it means to be black in America. (*fiction*)

## Themes in American History

---

### ***Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac**



Six-year-old Ned Begay leaves his Navajo home for boarding school, where he has to abandon his native language. At 16, he enlists in the U.S. Marines during World War II and is trained as a code talker, using his Navajo language to radio battlefield information and commands in a code that was kept secret until 1969. This is a fictionalized account of Marines who braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war and used the code to save countless American lives. (*fiction*)



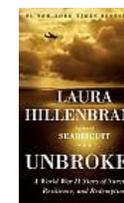
### ***Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper**



Fifteen-year old Amari is captured and sold into slavery in South Carolina where she becomes unlikely friends with Polly, a white indentured servant. Their only hope is to escape to the rumored freedom of a Spanish colony in Florida. This story portrays the disturbing, brutal realities of the slave trade and plantation life as well as the strength of the human spirit. (*fiction*)



### ***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand**



In May 1943, Louis Zamperini's B-24 crashed in the Pacific. After a record-breaking 47 days adrift on a shark-encircled life raft, he and pilot Allen Phillips are "rescued" by the Japanese. In POW camps, Zamperini falls into the hands of a pathologically brutal sadist whose pleasure comes from tormenting prisoners. This is a true story of heroism, cruelty, joy, and redemption. (*memoir*)