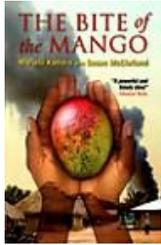


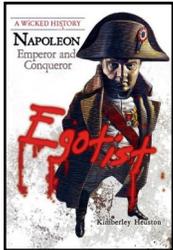
Challenges in the Modern World

***The Bite of Mango* by Mariatu Kamara**



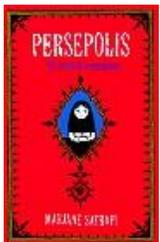
Political instability in Sierra Leone forces twelve-year-old Mariatu to face unimaginable horrors, including rebels who chop off both of her hands. Yet her resilience enables her to recover from many losses, make friends, and continue her education as a refugee in Canada. (*memoir*) ♪ e

***Napoleon: Emperor and Conqueror* by Kimberley Burton Heuston**



An engaging biography of Napoleon Bonaparte, one of the most brilliant and reckless generals in history, who declared himself emperor of France in 1804, conquered lands from Portugal to Poland, made kings and queens of his family members, and nearly brought all of Europe to its knees. (*biography*)

***Persepolis: The Story of Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi**



Marjane Satrapi tells the story of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution—a time when listening to popular rock music or going to a party could be met with harsh punishment. Using black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi, who only wanted to live normally and speak out against the injustices that she witnessed, describes this confusing, fearful time. (*memoir*)

Don't Forget!

You must read at least two books, and at least one of those books must come from this list.

Note-taking sheets are required for each book and will be collected upon your return to school. You can find note-taking sheets in the following places:

- On the school and district website (www.hamden.org)
- In the Main Office at HHS
- At each branch of the public library
- In the mailing sent home in June with your report card



Hamden High School

Summer Reading
Assignment

Incoming Freshmen
2014

The Purpose

The Hamden High School summer reading program is designed with two objectives in mind: to promote the enjoyment of reading and to support connections to the high school curriculum. To that end, students are required to read two books during the summer.

One book must be chosen from the list of books provided here. This list includes a variety of fiction and non-fiction choices designed to appeal to a wide variety of reading tastes. The second book is a free choice book and may or may not be chosen from this list. The only restriction on the second book is that it not be part of the any previous years' curriculum. Incoming freshmen who received a book from an HHS student as part of a literacy initiative may use that book for their free reading choice.

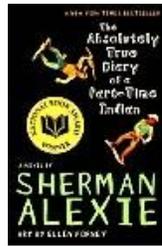
The Requirement

- Read two books.
- Take notes on each book using the required note-taking sheets—note sheets will be collected and will count toward credit given for summer reading.
- Be prepared to write an essay during the first week of school using the note-taking sheets.

Students who have not read at least one title from the list will not be given credit for the assignment.

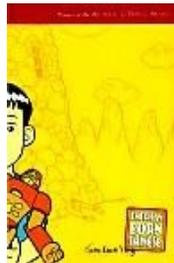
Prejudice Themes

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie



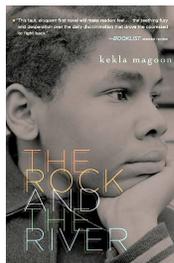
Life on the Spokane Indian Reservation where Junior lives is hopeless. Determined to receive a good education, he enrolls in an all-white school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Despite facing many hardships, Junior keeps his focus and sense of humor and discovers an inside strength that he never knew existed. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* is based on the author's own experiences. (fiction) ♪ e

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang



Three stories, three lives intersect in one graphic novel. The fabled Monkey King wants to be recognized as a god. Jin Wang wants to be accepted at school and by white American culture. Danny is white but is embarrassed by visits from his stereotypically Chinese cousin. How will they each get what they want? (fiction)

The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon



In 1968 Chicago, 14-year-old Sam Fields respects his father, a civil rights leader, but he begins to question the wisdom of following a nonviolent path toward equality after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Sam eventually turns to his militant brother for guidance, and soon joins the Black Panthers. This account of a critical time in American history will draw in readers with its compelling characters, and realistic plot. (fiction) ♪ e

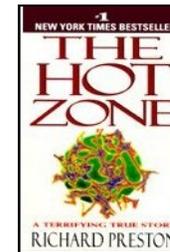
Biology Concepts

Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature by Robin Brande



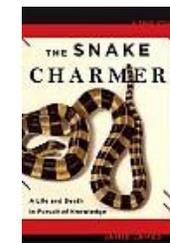
Mena is ostracized at church, home, and school for writing a letter of apology to a gay teen who was harassed into trying to kill himself by her fundamentalist friends. Mena struggles to find her way when new friends and school experiences force her to think about what she really believes. (fiction) ♪ e

The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story by Richard Preston



A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days, 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus. Shocking, frightening, and impossible to ignore, *The Hot Zone* proves that truth really is scarier than fiction. (nonfiction) ♪ e

The Snake Charmer: A Life and Death Pursuit of Knowledge by Jamie James



While exploring a Burmese jungle, Dr. Joe Slowinski is bitten by a krait, one of the most poisonous snakes in the world. His colleagues keep him alive for 26 hours with mouth-to-mouth respiration, waiting for medical help that never comes. (memoir) ♪ e