

# Summer Reading 2010

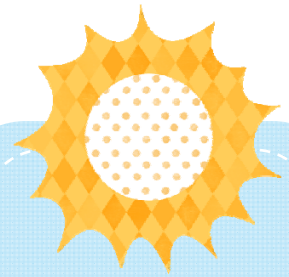
All students and teachers will read at least one book from the book list below. After reading the book one project should be completed (see project choices on page four). Remember that all projects include a writing component. Students may also design a project of their choice, however, the idea must be approved ahead of time. Email your project idea along with your name to Linda Weitzel ([weitzell@leonschools.net](mailto:weitzell@leonschools.net)) for approval. No approvals will be made after 8/1/10 so plan ahead.

During the first week of school students and teachers will meet in book groups to discuss the book and share student projects. Discussion groups give both students and teachers the chance to connect to the literature by sharing their reactions, questions and insights. Summer Reading counts as a test grade for English class. Need another incentive? Prizes will be given for the top 6 projects!

These books are available at Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million and Borders. Most titles are also available at the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library. If you have questions please feel free to email Linda ([weitzell@leonschools.net](mailto:weitzell@leonschools.net)).

**Be prepared to answer the following types of questions in your discussion group:**

1. What surprised or intrigued you about this book? How did this keep you involved/interested in the book?
2. What did you like/dislike about the book?
3. What is one of your favorite parts of the book and why is it a favorite?
4. What dialogue and/or descriptions exemplified the author's style as to setting, theme or characterization?
5. Compare an experience you have had to the experience of one of the characters in the book. Use details from both the story and your own experience in the comparison.
6. What would you have done in the main character's place?
7. Choose one character from the book. What influenced or inspired the character to act in the way they did or say what they did?



## Steps to Success:

- Choose one book to read from the list.
- Read the book.
- Choose one project from the list.
- Complete the project.
- Come to school the first week ready to discuss the book and present your project.

**Summer reading counts as a test grade in all English classes.**



# Summer Reads 2010

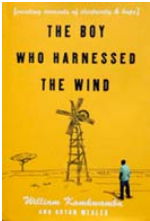
## **Game by Walter Dean Myers**

High school senior Drew Lawson has dreams. It's difficult to have dreams in a place like Harlem. Every day Drew witnesses poverty, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs and despair right outside his own home. Inside, he has loving and concerned parents, and a smart, supportive younger sister to provide a safe haven in which to develop his dreams. But it's hard to concentrate when his best friend's brother is arrested and awaiting trial. On the other hand, Drew can't hardly ignore his dream, as it runs in his blood, fills his heart and soul, and consumes his every waking moment. His dream is all about one sport --- basketball! Walter Dean Myers has created a fast-paced, high-excitement basketball thrill ride. His apparent knowledge and obvious love of the sport, insightful look into inner city life and superb writing talents all join together to make a memorable reading experience that is also a lot of fun. And GAME isn't just about the actual game of basketball. The book includes perceptive, thought-provoking ideas about the choices a person makes in his or her life, and the consequences resulting from those decisions. Review from *Teenreads.com*.



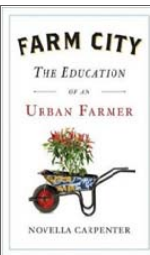
## **The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer**

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger, and a place where hope and opportunity were hard to find. But William had read about windmills in a book called USING ENERGY, and he dreamed of building one that would bring electricity and water to his village and change his life and the lives of those around him. His neighbors may have mocked him and called him misala --- crazy --- but William was determined to show them what a little grit and ingenuity could do. Kamkwamba embarked on a daring plan to bring his family a set of luxuries that only two percent of Malawians could afford and what the West considers a necessity—electricity and running water. Using scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves, William forged a crude yet operable windmill, an unlikely contraption and small miracle that eventually powered four lights, complete with homemade switches and a circuit breaker made from nails and wire. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is the remarkable story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. Review from *Amazon.com*.



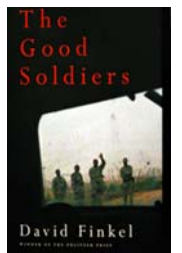
## **Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer by Novella Carpenter**

In this utterly enchanting book, food writer Carpenter chronicles with grace and generosity her experiences as an 'urban farmer.' With her boyfriend Bill's help, her squatter's vegetable garden in one of the worst parts of the Bay Area evolved into further adventures in bee and poultry keeping in the desire for such staples as home-harvested honey, eggs and home-raised meat. The built-in difficulties also required dealing with the expected noise and mess as well as interference both human and animal. When one turkey survived to see, so to speak, its way to the Thanksgiving table, the success spurred Carpenter to rabbitry and a month long plan to eat from her own garden. Consistently drawing on her Idaho ranch roots and determined even in the face of bodily danger, her ambitions led to ownership and care of a brace of pigs straight out of E.B. White. She chronicles the animals' slaughter with grace and sensitivity, their cooking and consumption with a gastronome's passion, and elegantly folds in riches like urban farming history. Her way with narrative and details, like the oddly poetic names of chicken and watermelon breeds, gives her memoir an Annie Dillard lyricism, but it's the juxtaposition of the farming life with inner-city grit that elevates it to the realm of the magical. Review from *Publishers Weekly*.



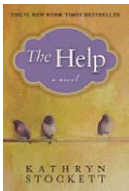
## **The Good Soldiers by David Finkel**

One of the *New York Times Book Review's* Top 10 Books of 2009, this is a book that captures the surreal horror of war: the experience of blood and violence and occasional moments of humanity that soldiers witness firsthand, and the slide shows of terrible pictures that will continue to play through their heads long after they have left the battlefield...It is Mr. Finkel's accomplishment in this harrowing book that he not only depicts what the Iraq war is like for the soldiers of the 2-16...but their lives. It was the last-chance moment of the war. In January 2007, President George W. Bush announced a new strategy for Iraq. He called it the surge. "Many listening tonight will ask why this effort will succeed when previous operations to secure Baghdad did not. Well, here are the differences," he told a skeptical nation. Among those listening were the young, optimistic army infantry soldiers of the 2-16, the battalion nicknamed the Rangers. About to head to a vicious area of Baghdad, they decided the difference would be them. Fifteen months later, the soldiers returned home forever changed. Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* reporter David Finkel was with them in Baghdad, and almost every grueling step of the way. What was the true story of the surge? And was it really a success? Those are the questions he grapples with in his remarkable report from the front lines. Review from *Teenreads.com*.



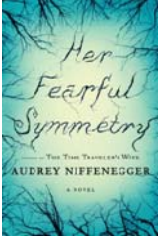
## **The Help by Kathryn Stockett**

What perfect timing for this optimistic, uplifting debut novel set during the nascent civil rights movement in Jackson, Miss., where black women were trusted to raise white children but not to polish the household silver. Eugenia Skeeter Phelan is just home from college in 1962, and, anxious to become a writer, is advised to hone her chops by writing about what disturbs you. The budding social activist begins to collect the stories of the black women on whom the country club sets relies and mistrusts enlisting the help of Aibileen, a maid who's raised 17 children, and Aibileen's best friend Minny, who's found herself unemployed more than a few times after mouthing off to her white employers. The book Skeeter puts together based on their stories is scathing and shocking, bringing pride and hope to the black community, while giving Skeeter the courage to break down her personal boundaries and pursue her dreams. Review from *Publishers Weekly*.



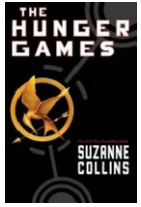
### ***Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger**

Six years after the phenomenal success of *The Time Traveler's Wife*, Audrey Niffenegger has returned with a spectacularly compelling and haunting second novel set in and around Highgate Cemetery in London. When Elspeth Noblin dies of cancer, she leaves her London apartment to her twin nieces, Julia and Valentina. These two American girls never met their English aunt, only knew that their mother, too, was a twin, and Elspeth her sister. Julia and Valentina are semi-normal American teenagers--with seemingly little interest in college, finding jobs, or anything outside their cozy home in the suburbs of Chicago, and with an abnormally intense attachment to one another. The girls move to Elspeth's flat, which borders Highgate Cemetery in London. They come to know the building's other residents. There is Martin, a brilliant and charming crossword puzzle setter suffering from crippling Obsessive Compulsive Disorder; Marjike, Martin's devoted but trapped wife; and Robert, Elspeth's elusive lover, a scholar of the cemetery. As the girls become embroiled in the fraying lives of their aunt's neighbors, they also discover that much is still alive in Highgate, including--perhaps--their aunt, who can't seem to leave her old apartment and life behind. Niffenegger weaves a captivating story about love and identity, about secrets and sisterhood, and about the tenacity of life--even after death. [Review from Amazon.com.](#)



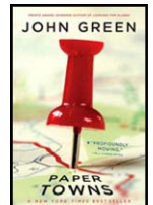
### ***The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins**

Survivor meets "The Lottery" in *The Hunger Games*. The United States is no more, and the new Capitol, high in the Rocky Mountains, requires each district to send two teenagers, a boy and a girl, to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a reality show from which only one of the twenty-four participants will emerge victorious -- and alive. When her younger sister is chosen by lottery to represent their district, Katniss volunteers to go in her stead, while Peeta, who secretly harbors a crush on Katniss, is the boy selected to join her. A fierce, resourceful competitor who wins the respect of the other participants and the viewing public, Katniss also displays great compassion and vulnerability through her first-person narration. The plot is front and center here -- the twists and turns are addictive, particularly when the romantic subplot ups the ante -- yet the Capitol's oppression and exploitation of the districts always simmers just below the surface, waiting to be more fully explored in future volumes. Collins has written a compulsively readable blend of science fiction, survival story, unlikely romance, and social commentary. [Review from Hornbook.](#)



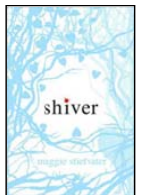
### ***Paper Towns* by John Green**

Quentin Jacobsen, 17, has been in love with his next-door neighbor, Margo Roth Spiegelman, for his entire life. A leader at their Central Florida high school, she has carefully cultivated her badass image. Quentin is one of the smart kids. He takes a rare risk when Margo appears at his window in the middle of the night. They drive around righting wrongs via her brilliant, elaborate pranks. Then she runs away (again). He slowly uncovers the depth of her unhappiness and the vast differences between the real and imagined Margo. Florida's heat and homogeneity as depicted here are vivid and awful. Green's prose is astounding--from hilarious, hyperintellectual trash talk and shtick, to complex philosophizing, to devastating observation and truths. The mystery of Margo--her disappearance and her personhood--is fascinating, cleverly constructed, and profoundly moving. Green builds tension through both the twists of the active plot and the gravitas of the subject. He skirts the stock coming-of-age character arc--Quentin's eventual bravery is not the revelation. Instead, the teen thinks deeper and harder--about the beautiful and terrifying ways we can and cannot know those we love. [Review from School Library Journal.](#)



### ***Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater**

Grace, 17, loves the peace and tranquility of the woods behind her home. It is here during the cold winter months that she gets to see her wolf--the one with the yellow eyes. Grace is sure that he saved her from an attack by other wolves when she was nine. Over the ensuing years he has returned each season, watching her with those haunting eyes as if longing for something to happen. When a teen is killed by wolves, a hunting party decides to retaliate. Grace races through the woods and discovers a wounded boy shivering on her back porch. One look at his yellow eyes and she knows that this is her wolf in human form. Fate has finally brought Sam and Grace together, and as their love grows and intensifies, so does the reality of what awaits them. It is only a matter of time before the winter cold changes him back into a wolf, and this time he might stay that way forever. Told from alternating points of view, the narrative takes a classic *Romeo & Juliet* plot and transforms it into a paranormal romance that is beautiful and moving. Readers will easily identify with the strong, dynamic characters. The mythology surrounding the wolf pack is clever and so well written that it seems perfectly normal for the creatures to exist in today's world. [Review from School Library Journal.](#)



### ***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte**

Set amid the wild Yorkshire moors, *Wuthering Heights* is Emily Bronte's only novel, and one of the pinnacles of 19th century English literature. It's the story of Heathcliff, an orphan who falls in love with a girl above his class, loses her, and devotes the rest of his life to wreaking revenge on her family. As all *Twilight* fans know, Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* is Bella and Edward's favorite book! [Review from Follett.com.](#)



# Summer Reading Project Choices

## 1. Write a Book Review

As a book reviewer for a newspaper or magazine, write a review of your book. Look at newspapers for examples. Write a 5 paragraph review that explains the novel's strengths regarding plot and characters, setting, etc. Give your recommendation. Be sure to explain what type of reader will enjoy this book and why. Choose at least 5 significant quotations/passages from the book and explain their significance as to how these passages affected your review. Include the page numbers of the passages in parenthesis.

## 2. Character Letters

Examine two characters from the book and write letters between the 2 characters. Use explicit and implicit information found in the book to copy the style of each character. What does the book reveal about the characters and their plans, aspirations and what is important to them? Letters should be at least one page and should be in a letter format including greeting, body, and salutation. You are encouraged to include photos, drawings or other accompanying materials. Include a brief introduction explaining why and who you choose to base the correspondence.

## 3. Write an original play - continue the story line on your own or show interactions between characters outside the story in a scene(s).

You are writing a scene from a play to continue the action of the book or to explain something that happened outside of the book. You may think outside of the parameters of the book but keep the general plot and personalities of the book. Write a script for a scene based on a part of the book. Include dialog, stage directions, scenery and any necessary commentary in proper format. List all characters as well as the actors you've chosen to play the roles. In a paragraph explain why you have chosen to write the scene and why you choose the actors. Choose at least 5 quotations/passages from the book and in a paragraph show how these influenced the scene. Include the page numbers of the passages in parenthesis.

## 4. Write an alternative ending to the story.

How many times have you wished you could rewrite the ending of a book? Here's your chance to tie up all of the loose ends and resolve all of the problems in a way you like. Think about the characters actions, words and thoughts and put yourself in their position. How would you react in a similar situation? Take the role of one of the characters and determine alternative actions. Consider the time period, the interactions of other characters and form an alternative ending that might have happened in the story. Write at least five paragraphs to retell the ending. Include at least 5 specific references to quotations/passages that lead you to your new ending. Include the page numbers of the passages in parenthesis.

## 5. Make a quilt square depicting character, setting, theme, etc.

As you read the book think about the important images that are revealed or implied. Design a quilt square that incorporates these images and reflects the story. The quilt square should measure at least 9x9 inches and it should include a border. Write a paragraph that explains the reasons you choose the images included on the quilt square. In the paragraph include at least 5 specific scenes/quotations/passages from which you derive the "picture". Include the page numbers of the passages in parenthesis.

## 6. Paint the setting, a character(s), or an abstract representation of an element(s) from the book.

As you read a book you may form pictures in your mind of the setting, a character, or perhaps a recurring symbol. For instance, the author may reveal the character's traits through thoughts, actions, or words. These traits are sometimes stated but sometimes they are implied by the author. Paint or draw this representation; the work should measure at least 9 x 12 inches. In a paragraph explain the picture(s) or traits you have chosen to include and provide as much detail as possible in your descriptions. Focus on what makes the image unique to the book. In the paragraph explain the reasons you choose the picture. Include at least 5 specific passages/quotations that give insight into the character's personality or description of scenes, etc. Include the page numbers of the passages in parenthesis.

## 7. Create a Power Point presentation representing your research on a topic from your book. For example, research Malawi, Wind Energy or electricity if reading *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

As you read the book record the possible research topics that are mentioned in the book. Choose one topic to research in depth. Use a variety of sources for your research and document each source. Be sure that the sources you use are reliable; pay attention to author, currency, objectivity, validity, and accuracy. Create at least 8 slides that document your research. Include an introduction, background information, and conclusion. In addition, explain why you have chosen to pursue this topic of research.

## 8. Group Project - Bringing Books to Life - dramatize a scene from the book and perform it for an audience.

As you read the book, make note of passages that can be dramatized in order to bring the story to life for others. Choose passages or narratives from the book to dramatize. The total performance should be at least 5 minutes. The group may be comprised of students dramatizing passages from the same book or from different books on the list. Choose at least 5 quotations/passages from the book and in a paragraph show how these influenced your narrative. Include the page numbers of the passages in parenthesis. Make sure each group member can document their work.

## 9. Group Project - Video Book Review - Be a publicist and create a commercial to "sell" the book. It will be shown on the morning announcements.

As a book publicist for a book publisher, design and produce a commercial to "sell" the book. The video should be at least 5 minutes. Include reviews from other authors that explain the novel's strengths as well as your own recommendation. Be sure to explain what type of reader will enjoy this book and why. Include a synopsis or feature scenes from the book. Use your imagination to create a commercial that will hook readers. Choose at least 5 significant quotations/passages from the book and explain their significance as to how these passages affected your review. Include the page numbers of the passages in parenthesis. Make sure each group member can document their work.

## 10. Project of your choice. You must have your idea approved ahead of time. Email your project idea along with your name to Linda ([weitzell@leonschools.net](mailto:weitzell@leonschools.net)) for approval.

No approvals after 8/1/2010.

