



2007

Maine West Summer Reading Book List

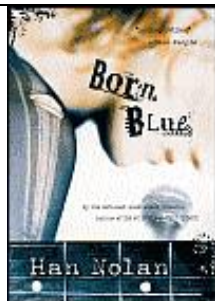


After by Francine Prose

Mystery / Thriller Fiction

Adapted from: KLIATT

This suspenseful story takes place in Tom's high school after a violent shooting incident happened 50 miles away at a different high school. Tom and his sophomore classmates are annoyed but not overly concerned about the new security restrictions until they notice eerie disappearances of a favorite teacher and two best friends that fail to conform. Students who don't cooperate with the authorities are taken away to special camps called turnaround centers, and they are never heard from or seen again. Parents get nightly e-mails from the school and they change personalities—are they being brainwashed somehow?



Born Blue by Han Nolan

Realistic Fiction

Adapted from: Publisher's Weekly

This is a saga of an emotionally disturbed teen, abandoned by her mother, neglected by her foster parents and later kidnapped and sold by her mother to a drug dealer, finds hope within her love for music. At a young age, she discovers her own remarkable singing voice, Janie (who changes her name to Leshaya) begins getting the attention she so desperately craves. Her talent proves to be both a blessing and a curse, however, bringing her opportunities and, at the same time, magnetically pulling her into a world where fellow musicians use drugs and sex to heighten their performance.



The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things by Carolyn Mackler

Realistic Fiction

Adapted from: School Library Journal

Sophomore Virginia Shreves lives in Manhattan and attends a prestigious private school. She lives by her Fat Girl Code of Conduct. She has a budding romance with Froggy the Fourth, but she doesn't want his wandering hands to feel her fat. Her mother, Dr. Phyllis Shreves, is an adolescent psychologist obsessed with her imperfect daughter's weight, and her father is rarely around. Her older sister joined the Peace Corps to escape mom, and brother Byron is big man on the Columbia campus-until he's suspended for date rape. Finally, Virginia stands up to her mother and takes charge of her life.



Elsewhere by Gabrielle Charbonnet

Fantasy Fiction

Adapted from: KLIATT - Janis Flint-Ferguson

Lizzie was killed in a car accident on her way to the mall to meet a friend just before her 16th birthday. This novel is the story of her "life" in the hereafter—in Elsewhere. People in Elsewhere experience time backward, growing younger until they are infants who then once again return to Earth. Lizzie is a typical teen and she cannot believe that she is dead. She wants to turn 16, drive, and fall in love. How will she react when she finds out she is going to be 14 again?



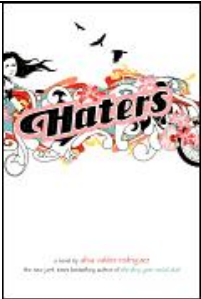
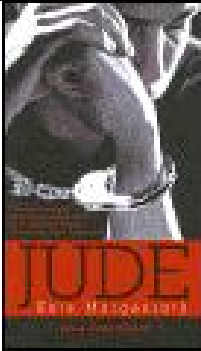

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J. K. Rowling (Book 7)

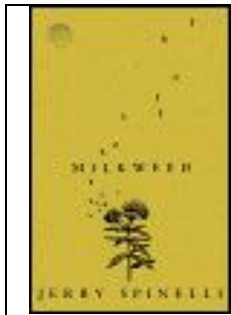
Fantasy Fiction

Adapted from: Amazon.com

The Final Chapter

It's official! *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the seventh and final book in J.K. Rowling's magical *Harry Potter* series, will be released on July 21, 2007. In the February 1 announcement from the book's publisher, Lisa Holton, President of Scholastic Children's Books, said, "We are thrilled to announce the publication date of the seventh installment in this remarkable series. We join J.K. Rowling's millions of readers--young and old, veterans and newcomers--in anticipating what lies ahead." Save the date, and let the countdown begin!

	<p><i>Haters</i> by Alisa Valdez-Rodriguez Realistic Fiction</p> <p><u>Adapted from: School Library Journal</u> Pasquala Rumalda Quintana has to move from New Mexico, to Orange County, California, because of her father's job. Paski, a down-to-earth, confident, athletic, and intelligent junior, who is both repulsed and intrigued by the very wealthy and beautiful in-crowd labeled the Haters by the rest of the school's students. Ending her first week at an exclusive party, Paski nearly dies after being slipped the date-rape drug and pushed into the swimming pool semi-conscious by Jessica, the self-crowned Queen "B." who Paski is disturbing visions about because of her psychic abilities.</p>
	<p><i>Jude</i> by Kate Morgenroth Realistic Fiction</p> <p><u>Adapted from: School Library Journal</u> Fifteen-year-old Jude believes that his mother abandoned him at birth. When his heroin-dealer father is murdered in the first few pages, the authorities discover that his mom is the District Attorney and mayoral candidate Anna Grady, and that he was kidnapped by his father at three weeks old. His mother welcomes him into her comfortable life and sends him to an exclusive prep school. When a schoolmate dies of an overdose, Jude, though innocent, is suspected. Due to the twisting plot, the prison fight scenes, and the search for justice, the story is quick and action packed.</p>
	<p><i>Lush</i> by Natasha Friend Realistic Family Fiction</p> <p><u>Adapted from: Kirkus Reviews</u> After years of pretending she has a "normal" family, a worried teen finally confronts her father's alcoholism. Her parents seem oblivious. His binges are getting worse and she's afraid he will lose control. Desperate to confide in someone other than her friends, Sam leaves notes in the library asking for advice from an older girl she doesn't really know. When her drunken father injures her little brother and the family's future is jeopardized.</p>



Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli

Holocaust Fiction

Adapted from: Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)

This is a holocaust story seen through a teen orphan's eye. In 1939 in Warsaw, Poland, a street thief who doesn't even know his name finds himself taken under the wing of a sharp, slightly older street boy named Uri. Through the orphan's experiences the reader feels the disorientation, confusion, and the mounting horror of what it was like to live within a Warsaw ghetto and through Nazi occupation. He witnesses innocent people getting murdered, tortured and witnesses hatred firsthand. He and the reader together lives the horrors during this dark era of history.

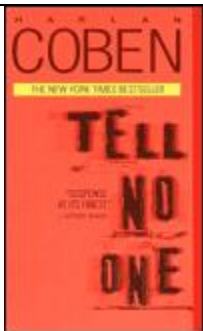


Sold by Patricia McCormick

Realistic Fiction

Adapted from: KLIATT -

Sold is the story of a young Nepali girl who is sold by her stepfather into prostitution. She is 14-years-old when she is rescued by some Americans who visit brothels in India to find young girls who want to escape. To prepare to write this novel (in poetry format), the author traveled to Nepal and India to interview prostitutes in brothels and also girls who have been rescued from the sex trade. In her note at the end of the story she says, "Each year, nearly 12,000 Nepali girls are sold by their families--intentionally or unwittingly--to a life of sexual slavery. Worldwide, the US State Department estimates that nearly half a million children are trafficked into the sex trade each year."

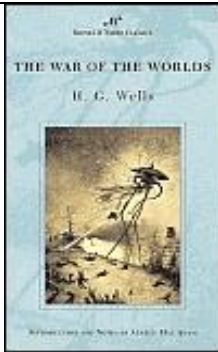


Tell No One by Harlan Coben

Murder Mystery Fiction

Adapted from: Library Journal

David Beck and his wife, Elizabeth, are celebrating their anniversary when things go horribly wrong, as Elizabeth is kidnapped and Beck is injured. Her battered body is later found, apparently the latest victim of a serial killer. Eight years later, still devastated by his loss, Beck receives a cryptic E-mail with a mysterious hyperlink that will activate at a specific time. When it activates, it shows a current video feed on a street that Beck can't identify. He watches in shock as Elizabeth looks up at the camera and mouths, "I'm sorry."



The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

Science Fiction

Adapted from: The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature

The story, which details twelve days in which invaders from Mars attack the planet Earth, captured popular imagination with its fast-paced narrative and images of Martians and interplanetary travel. The humans in *The War of the Worlds* initially treat the invasion with complacency but soon are provoked into a defensive state of war.

