



# École secondaire LESTER B. PEARSON High School

11575 rue P.M. Favier, Montréal (Québec) H1G 6E5

TEL: (514) 328-4442 FAX: (514) 328-4443

June 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On the back of this sheet, you will find your child's 2019 Summer Reading List. Your child must read at least one of the two novels from the list and make notes of any significant plot points, symbols, themes and ideas as they read. We have included a short synopsis of each book to help with your selection. We have also included a guideline to direct your child and help them take appropriate notes while reading.

Local book stores have the novels in stock, however, please procure books at the beginning of summer because it takes 2 to 3 weeks to receive books if they run out of stock.

If ordering online please anticipate 2 to 3 weeks for novels to arrive, therefore do not wait until the end of summer to order.

Public libraries are also a good option to find the novels.

**Please take note that your child's Summer Reading Test will take place at the BEGINNING OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2019**

Therefore, your child must be prepared to take their test, regardless of the English class they are placed in (whether Regular, Enriched, Sports Etudes or Resource. Extensions will be granted only to students who are new to the school and register late for classes.

We hope you and your child have a restful summer and we look forward to starting the new school year in September.

English Department Coordinators

Administration

## Outline for Note Taking While Reading a Novel

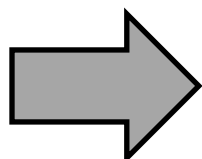
- 1) Read with a pen or pencil and some paper nearby so you can write down important words, ideas and names.
- 2) If there is information that you find difficult to understand don't hesitate to re-read passages. After each chapter or every few pages write down points or quotes that may help you remember significant ideas later on.
- 3) If you are distracted or find it hard to remember plot points, character names or events in the novel, take a break, and return to it a little while later.
- 4) Try to identify the theme of the story: the central idea or topic in a story that is expressed with more than just one word. What is the author trying to express through his/her writing.
- 5) If there is something you're not quite sure of don't be afraid to ask someone to clarify for you. Use a dictionary to look up difficult words!

Summary Points

Character Information

Theme/Ideas

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**SECONDARY 5 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS**

An Abundance of Katherines -John Green  
Fahrenheit 451 –Ray Bradbury

**An Abundance of Katherines:** When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton’s type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has ten thousand dollars in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight, Judge Judy–loving best friend riding shotgun—but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge Dumpees everywhere, and finally win him the girl. Love, friendship, and a dead Austro-Hungarian archduke add up to surprising and heart-changing conclusions in this ingeniously layered comic novel about reinventing oneself.

Synopsis: Amazon Canada

**Fahrenheit 451:** Ray Bradbury’s internationally acclaimed novel Fahrenheit 451 is a masterwork of twentieth-century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future.

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden.

Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television.

When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life.

Synopsis: Amazon Canada





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### SECONDARY 4 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

Slam – Nick Hornby

Twisted -Laurie Halse-Anderson

**Slam:** For 16-year-old Sam, life is about to get extremely complicated. He and his girlfriend—make that ex-girlfriend— Alicia have gotten themselves into a bit of trouble. Sam is suddenly forced to grow up and struggle with the familiar fears and inclinations that haunt us all.

Nick Hornby's poignant and witty novel shows a rare and impressive understanding of human relationships and what it really means to be a man.

Synopsis: Amazon Canada

**Twisted:** High school senior Tyler Miller used to be the kind of guy who faded into the background. But since he got busted for doing graffiti on the school, and spent the summer doing outdoor work to pay for it, he stands out like you wouldn't believe. His new physique attracts the attention of queen bee Bethany Milbury, who just so happens to be his father's boss's daughter, the sister of his biggest enemy, and Tyler's secret crush. And that sets off a string of events and changes that have Tyler questioning his place in school, in his family, and in the world.

Synopsis: Amazon Canada



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### SECONDARY 3 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

Maus II – Art Spiegelman

We Were Liars -Emily Lockhart

**Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began:** Readers will experience the artistic portrayal of World War II as a graphic novel. The novel depicts Jewish people as mice, cats as the Nazis and Germans, the Americans as dogs, and the French as frogs. As Spiegelman asks his father about the Holocaust for his book, he also has to deal with relationships, family, and harsh memories. Readers will view a vivid description of the Holocaust as Spiegelman's father recalls how he survived, starting when his troubles first began, up till the end of the war. This mind-blowing graphic novel will definitely keep readers on their edge of their seat.

Excerpts from Random House, Inc

#### **We Were Liars:**

A beautiful and distinguished family.

A private island.

A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy.

A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive.

A revolution. An accident. A secret.

Lies upon lies.

True love.

The truth.

Synopsis: Amazon Canada



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### SECONDARY 2 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

Breaking Point –Alex Flinn

Double – Jenny Valentine

**Double:** When the sixteen-year-old runaway Chap is mistaken for a missing boy named Cassiel, his life changes dramatically. Chap takes on Cassiel's identity, gaining the family and friends he's always dreamed of having. But becoming someone else isn't as easy as he hoped—and Chap isn't the only one hiding a secret. As he teeters on the brink of discovery and begins to unravel the mystery behind Cassiel's disappearance, Chap realizes that he's in much deeper danger than he could have imagined. After all, you can't just steal a life and expect to get away with it. Award-winning author Jenny Valentine delivers an explosive mystery where dark secrets, betrayal, and loss pave the way for one teen's chance at redemption.

Synopsis from Amazon Canada

**Breaking Point:** How far would you go to fit in? Paul is new to Gate, a school whose rich students make life miserable for anyone not like them. And Paul is definitely not like them. Then, something incredible happens. Charlie Good, a star student and athlete, invites Paul to join his elite inner circle. All Charlie wants is a few things in return—small things that Paul does willingly. Until one day Charlie wants something big—really big.

Now Paul has to decide how far he'll go to be one of the gang. The electrifying follow-up to Alex Flinn's critically acclaimed debut novel, *Breathing Underwater*, *Breaking Point* is a tale of school violence that explores why and how a good kid can go 'bad'.

Synopsis from Amazon Canada



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### SECONDARY 1 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

Word Nerd – Susan Nielsen

Milkweed – Jerry Spinelli

**Word Nerd:** Twelve-year-old Ambrose is a glass-half-full kind of guy. A self-described “friendless nerd,” he moves from place to place every couple of years with his overprotective mother, Irene. When some bullies at his new school almost kill him by slipping a peanut into his sandwich — even though they know he has a deadly allergy — Ambrose is philosophical. Irene, however, is not and decides that Ambrose will be home-schooled. In this brilliantly observed novel, author Susin Nielsen transports the reader to the world of competitive Scrabble as seen from the honest yet funny viewpoint of a boy who’s searching for acceptance and for a place to call home

Synopsis from Amazon Canada

**Milkweed:** He's a boy called Jew. Gypsy. Stopthief. Filthy son of Abraham. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself, and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi, with tall, shiny jackboots of his own-until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody.

Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli takes us to one of the most devastating settings imaginable- Nazi-occupied Warsaw during World War II-and tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young Holocaust orphan.

Synopsis from Amazon Canada



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