

**Port Angeles School District
Summer Reading Lists
Titles for High School Students
2009**

Quoted material comes from students

Canyons by Gary Paulsen is a novel that tells the story of two boys, though separated by time and culture, who both face the challenges of entering manhood.

****Catch-22*** by Joseph Heller is an intensely serious comedy that exposes the madness of war, human nature, and institutions. Set in the latter years of World War II, this novel “contains more humor than three hours of television.”

The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger is a coming-of-age novel that features a narrator who “is not fake and goes through things that people in high school go through.” “He is an interesting character and you relate to him on so many levels.”

A Child Called “It” by Dave Pelzer is a memoir of a young boy growing up and struggling to survive an abusive mother. It’s “an emotional eye-opener” that “will teach you life lessons” and “will keep you hooked.”

City of Bones by Cassandra Clare is a fantasy novel about a teenager who discovers she can see supernatural beings that no one else can. “It’s a fast-paced adventure, but it still manages to be funny and have a little romance. It also has an interesting plot that keeps the reader guessing throughout.”

Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card is a science fiction novel that tells the story of Ender Wiggins, who thinks he is only playing computer-simulated war games but is really commanding the last great fleet on Earth.

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien is a classic fantasy novel that “provides an adventure and it shows how the little guy can be a hero.”

The Host by Stephenie Meyer is a science fiction/romance novel about an alien race called souls who take over Earth and its inhabitants because they believe humans are too violent. “It constantly throws in new twists so you never want to put it down. It also makes you think about the future and humanity.”

Maus: A Survivor’s Tale by Art Spiegelman is a graphic novel that tells the tragic story of his family and the Holocaust’s devastating effects on them.

****Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen is a classic romantic novel set in early 19th century England. Students “would like this book because of the language it uses and the relevance to the real world.” It “has a very interesting plot that constantly keeps you guessing.”

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Running with the Buffaloes by Chris Lear is the inspirational account of the 1998 University of Colorado cross country team. “It is a demonstration of how hard it is to be great.” (Not available in NOLS)

****Slaughter-House Five*** by Kurt Vonnegut is “both a strange science fiction story and a biting satire of society” that contains “both truth and humor.” It focuses on the firebombing of Dresden, Germany during World War II.

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher “is an easy read, but at the same time it’s heart-wrenching.” This story of a girl’s suicide “makes you really think about how everybody is, in one way or another, connected and how so many little things can add up to something big, without anybody realizing it.”

This Boy’s Life by Tobias Wolff is “an entertaining memoir about the author’s childhood. It is honest and outlines many of his flaws as well as those around him. It’s also interesting because the author spent much of his childhood in the Pacific Northwest.”

A Walk to Remember by Nicholas Sparks is “a very interesting love story” that draws “the reader into where they never want to stop reading it.” It is a coming-of-age story about the perfect innocence of a first love.

A Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris, a novel that examines the relationships between a daughter, her Native American mother, and a grandmother, “is a story of a girl’s life and her struggles growing up. It’s easy reading and the main ideas are clearly given.”