

# *Eli Whitney Technical High School*

## *2017 Summer Reading List*

### FICTION

#### **Audacity** *by Melanie Crowder*

A historical fiction novel in verse detailing the life of Clara Lemlich and her struggle for women's labor rights in the early 20th century in New York. BL: **6.6** - AR Pts: **5.0**

#### **Starbird Murphy and the World Outside** *by Karen Finneyfrock*

Starbird has spent the first sixteen years of her life on a commune in the woods of Washington State. When she gets her Calling to become a waitress at the farm's satellite restaurant in Seattle, it means leaving behind the only place she's ever known and entering the World Outside. BL: **5.5** - AR Pts: **13.0**

#### **Pay It Forward** *by Catherine Ryan Hyde*

A young boy who believes in the goodness of human nature sets out to change the world with his seemingly simple plan, but he soon learns that some people are not willing to help him. BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **12.0**

#### **Station Eleven** *by Emily St. John Mandel*

The sudden death of a Hollywood actor during a production of "King Lear" marks the beginning of the world's dissolution in a story told at various past and future. BL: **6.5** - AR Pts: **16.0**

#### **A Step Toward Falling** *by Cammie McGovern*

After failing to come to Belinda's aid while she was being attacked, Emily and another classmate are punished by being forced to work at a community center for people with disabilities, but they are put to the ultimate test when Belinda finally returns to school and they must find a way to make amends to her. BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **14.0**

#### **Eight Girls Taking Pictures** *by Whitney Otto*

A tale inspired by the lives of famous twentieth century female photographers traces the progression of feminism and photography in various world regions as each woman explores private and public goals while balancing the demands of family and creativity. BL: **7.7** - AR Pts: **19.0**

#### **Out of Nowhere** *by Maria Padian*

Performing community service for pulling a stupid prank against a rival high school, soccer star Tom tutors a Somali refugee with soccer dreams of his own. BL: **4.3** - AR Pts: **12.0**

#### **The Lucy Variations** *by Sara Zarr*

With her chance at a career as a concert pianist passed, Lucy Beck-Moreau decides to help her ten-year-old piano prodigy brother, Gus, map out his own future, even as she explores why she enjoyed piano in the first place. BL: **4.2** - AR Pts: **10.0**

#### **I am the Messenger** *by Marcus Zusak*

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness. BL: **3.9** - AR Pts: **12.0**

### GRAPHIC NOVEL

#### **March: Book One** *by John Lewis*

A first-hand account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement. BL: **4.6** - AR Pts: **1.0**

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**NON FICTION**

**Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad** *by M. T. Anderson*

An account of the Siege of Leningrad reveals the role played by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony in rallying and commemorating their fellow citizens. BL: 7.9 - AR Pts: 18.0

**Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines** *by Paul Fleischman*

A summary of today's environmental challenges also counsels teens on how to decode conflicting information, explaining the role of vested interests while identifying the sources behind different opinions, helping teens make informed choices. Environmental protection. Environmental quality. BL: 7.7 - AR Pts: 5.0

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

A true story of tenacity and imagination describes how an African teenager built a windmill from scraps to create electricity for his home and his village, improving life for himself and his neighbors. BL: 6.4 - AR Pts: 15.0

**Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide**

*by Nicholas D. Kristof*

Discusses the oppression of women in the developing world, sharing example stories about victims and survivors who are working to raise awareness, counter abuse, and campaign for women's rights. BL: 9.5 - AR Pts: 18.0

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business - and Won!**

*by Emily Arnold McCully*

Follows the life of Ida Tarbell, the nineteenth-century author/journalist whose articles on the corrupt practices of John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil Company resulted in legislation against trusts. BL: 8.6 - AR Pts: 11.0

**Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black**

**Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race** *by Margot Lee Shetterly*

An account of the previously unheralded but pivotal contributions of NASA's African-American women mathematicians to America's space program describes how they were segregated from their white counterparts by Jim Crow laws in spite of their groundbreaking successes. BL: 9.7 - AR Pts: 18.0

**I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the**

**Taliban** *by Malala Yousafzai*

When the Taliban took over the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one fifteen year-old girl decided to speak out. BL: 7.1 - AR Pts: 16.0

**Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man who Would Cure the World** *adapted by Michael French*

Chronicles the life of Paul Farmer, focusing on his efforts to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring modern medicine to the countries and people who need them most. BL: 8.6 - AR Pts: 11.0

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### FAVORITES AND CLASSICS

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

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. BL: **4.0** - AR Pts: **6.0**

#### **Speak** *by Laurie Halse Anderson*

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. BL: **4.5** - AR Pts: **7.0**

#### **Weetzie Bat** *by Francesca Lia Block*

Follows the wild adventures of Weetzie Bat and her Los Angeles friends, Dirk, Duck, and My-Secret-Agent-Lover-Man. BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **2.0**

#### **Kindred** *by Octavia Butler*

A young African-American woman is mysteriously transferred back in time leading to an irresistible curiosity about her family's past. BL: **4.0** - AR Pts: **14.0**

#### **Ender's Game** *by Orson Scott Card*

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race. BL: **5.5** - AR Pts: **16.0**

#### **The Perks of Being a Wallflower** *by Stephen Chbosky*

A series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the coming-of-age trials of a high-schooler named Charlie. BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **9.0**

#### **Girl Overboard** *by Justina Chen Headly*

After a snowboarding accident, Syrah Cheng, a billionaire's daughter, must rehabilitate both her knee and her self-esteem while forging relationships with those who accept her for who she is. BL: **6.6** - AR Pts: **14.0**

#### **The House on Mango Street** *by Sandra Cisneros*

A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends. BL: **4.5** - AR Pts: **3.0**

#### **Just Listen** *by Sara Dessen*

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life. BL: **4.9** - AR Pts: **15.0**

#### **Copper Sun** *by Sharon M. Draper*

Two fifteen-year-old girls — one a slave and the other an indentured servant — escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves. BL: **5.2** - AR Pts: **11.0**

#### **Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** *by Jonathan Safran Foer*

Follows nine-year-old Oskar Schell as he encounters a number of interesting characters in his search for information about his father, who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and tries to find the lock that fits the mysterious key he left behind. BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **13.0**

#### **The Fault in Our Stars** *by John Green*

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life. BL: **5.5** - AR Pts: **10.0**

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### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime** *by Mark Haddon*

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

BL: **5.4** - AR Pts: **10.0**

### **Seraphina** *by Rachel Hartman*

In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents. BL: **6.0** - AR Pts: **18.0**

### **Born Confused** *by Tanuja Desai Hidier*

Seventeen-year-old Dimple, whose family is from India, discovers that she is not Indian enough for the Indians and not American enough for the Americans, as she sees her hypnotically beautiful, manipulative best friend taking possession of both her heritage and the boy she likes. BL: **5.9** - AR Pts: **23.0**

### **Game** *by Walter Dean Myers*

If Harlem high school senior Drew Lawson is going to realize his dream of playing college, then professional, basketball, he will have to improve at being coached and being a team player, especially after a new — white — student threatens to take the scouts' attention away from him. BL: **5.3** - AR Pts: **5.0**

### **Monster** *by Walter Dean Myers*

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-yearold Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **5.0**

### **Persepolis** *by Marjane Satrapi*

Contains black-and-white comic strip images in which the author shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under control of the Islamic regime.

BL: **3.3** - AR Pts: **2.0**

### **Midwinterblood** *by Marcus Sedgwick*

Seven linked vignettes unfold on a Scandinavian island inhabited — throughout various time periods — by Vikings, vampires, ghosts, and a curiously powerful plant. BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **7.0**

### **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** *by Betty Smith*

Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century. BL: **5.8** - AR Pts: **23.0**

### **Buried Onions** *by Gary Soto*

When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California. BL: **5.3** - AR Pts: **6.0**

### **Marcelo in the Real World** *by Francisco X. Stork*

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

BL: **4.6** - AR Pts: **12.0**

### **Jumped** *by Rita Williams-Garcia*

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved. BL: **3.6** - AR Pts: **4.0**

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**How to Save a Life** *by Sara Zarr*

Told from their own viewpoints, seventeen-year-old Jill, in grief over the loss of her father, and Mandy, nearly nineteen, are thrown together when Jill's mother agrees to adopt Mandy's unborn child but nothing turns out as they had anticipated. BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **12.0**

**Feed** *by M. T. Anderson*

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble. BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **7.0**

**The Handmaid's Tale** *by Margaret Atwood*

Set in the near future, America has become a puritanical theocracy and Offred tells her story as a Handmaid under the new social order. BL: **5.4** - AR Pts: **14.0**

**Love in the Time of Global Warming** *by Francesca Lia Block*

After a devastating earthquake destroys the West Coast, causing seventeen-year-old Penelope to lose her home, her parents, and her ten-year-old brother, she navigates a dark world, holding hope and love in her hands and refusing to be defeated. BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **7.0**

**SERIES**

**Weetzie Bat** *by Francesca Lia Block*

BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **2.0**

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

BL: **5.3** - AR Pts: **15.0**

**The Maze Runner** *by James Dashner*

BL: **5.3** - AR Pts: **15.0**

**Shiver trilogy** *by Maggie Stiefvater*

BL: **4.9** - AR Pts: **14.0**