



École secondaire LESTER B. PEARSON High School

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

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On the back of this sheet, you will find your child's 2017 Summer Reading List. Your child is to read at least one of the two novels offered and keep notes. We have included a short synopsis of each book to help your child choose their novel. We have also included a guideline on how to help your child take appropriate notes while reading the novel.

Please take note that your child's Summer Reading Test will take place at the BEGINNING OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Therefore your child must be prepared to take their test, regardless of the English class they are placed in. Any late registration will be given a later date within the first term to do their test.

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



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board



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SECONDARY 5 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

She's Come Undone – by Wally Lamb

A Long Way Gone – by Ishmael Beah

She's Come Undone – by Wally Lamb (Mature Subject Matter)

In this extraordinary coming-of-age odyssey, Wally Lamb invites us to hitch a wild ride on a journey of love, pain, and renewal with the most heartbreakingly comical heroine to come along in years.

Meet Dolores Price. She's 13, wise-mouthed but wounded, having bid her childhood goodbye. Stranded in front of her bedroom TV, she spends the next few years nourishing herself with the Mallomars, potato chips, and Pepsi her anxious mother supplies. When she finally orbits into young womanhood at 257 pounds, Dolores is no stronger and life is no kinder. But this time she's determined to rise to the occasion and give herself one more chance before she *really* goes under.

Excerpt from First Washington Square Press

A Long Way Gone – by Ishmael Beah

At the age of twelve, Ishmael Beah fled attacking rebels in Sierra Leone and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. At sixteen, he was removed from fighting by UNICEF, and through the help of the staff at his rehabilitation center, he learned how to forgive himself, to regain his humanity, and, finally, to heal.

This is an extraordinary and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.

Excerpt from publisher Sara Crichton Books



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SECONDARY 4 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

Go Ask Alice – by Anonymous (Mature Subject Matter)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – by Mark Haddon

Go Ask Alice – by Anonymous (Mature Subject Matter)

It all started when she was served a soft drink laced with LSD in a dangerous party game. Within months, she was hooked, trapped in a downward spiral that took her from her comfortable home and loving family to the mean streets of an unforgiving city.

This powerful, first-person account of a teenage girl's struggle with the seductive-and often fatal- world of drugs and addiction has sold more than five million copies. Tough and uncompromising, honest and disturbing, *Go Ask Alice* remains the definitive book on the horrors of addiction.

Excerpt from Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, New York

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – by Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

Excerpt from Random House, Inc.





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SECONDARY 3 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

Forged by Fire – by Sharon Draper

Maus II – by Art Spiegelman

Forged by Fire – by Sharon Draper

Forged by Fire, the second book in Sharon Draper's Hazelwood High trilogy, was published in 1997 and won the Coretta Scott King Award. Gerald is tough. He survived a fire, extreme poverty, and years of abuse at the hands of his mother and stepfather. But when Gerald learns of the danger his beloved younger sister faces, he must save her or die trying.

Maus II – by Art Spiegelman

In *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began* by Art Spiegelman, 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



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SECONDARY 2 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

Breaking Point– by Alex Flinn

Double – by Jenny Valentine

Breaking Point– by Alex Flinn

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'.

Double – by Jenny Valentine

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 for both novels by Amazon Canada](#)





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SECONDARY 1 SUMMER READING LIST AND SYNOPSIS

Word Nerd – by Susan Nielsen

Crash – by Jerry Spinelli

Word Nerd – by Susan Nielsen

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 deathly 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

Crash – by Jerry Spinelli

Cocky seventh-grade super-jock Crash Coogan got his nickname the day he used his first football helmet to knock his cousin Bridget flat on her backside. And he has been running over people ever since, especially Penn Webb, the dweeby, vegetarian Quaker kid who lives down the block. Through the eyes of Crash, readers get a rare glimpse into the life of a bully in this unforgettable and beloved story about stereotypes and the surprises life can bring.

[Synopsis for both novels by Amazon Canada](#)





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 something. After each chapter or every couple of pages write down a few points or sentences that may help you remember later on.
- 3) If you are distracted or find it hard to remember, take a break, and return to the novel 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. Sometimes you have to figure it out on your own because it's not always a specific word in the book.
- 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

Summary Points	Character Information	Theme/Ideas





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