

LSHS Staff Recommendations for Enjoyable Summer Reading '09

The "Anything by this Author" Category

Anything by Barbara Kingsolver

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

Includes *The Poisonwood Bible*, *The Bean Trees*, *Prodigal Summer*, *Animal Dreams*, and *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*. Sandy: "Kingsolver is somehow lyrical, earthy, witty, insightful, and eternal all at the same time. An amazing author!" In the LMC Collection.

Anything by Bill Bryson

Recommended by Michael Russell

Includes *A Walk in the Woods*, *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, *In A Sunburned Country*, *Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, and *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. All are in the LMC Collection.

Anything by Harlan Coben

Recommended by Kathy Koeneman

Kathy: "Everything I have read of his is very good and hard to put down." Coben books in the LMC Collection: *Tell No One*, *Gone for Good*, *Hold Tight*, *No Second Chance*, and *Promise Me*.

Anything by Mitch Albom

Recommended by Stephanie Watson

Stephanie's favorites are *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *The 5 People You Meet in Heaven*, and *One More Day*. All are in the LMC Collection.

Books Alphabetized by Title

1776 by David McCollough

Recommended by Michael Russell

Based upon both American and British historical documents, the author presents a comprehensive history of the American Revolution during 1776, George Washington, and those who followed him. In the LMC Collection.

Anansi Boys by Neil Gaiman

Recommended by Michael Russell

Charlie Nancy was leading a comfortable life until his father died and discovered that dear old dad was a human form of Anansi, the African trickster god, and that he had a brother, Spider, who inherited some of his father's godlike abilities. In the LMC Collection. If you like *Anansi Boys*, try also *American Gods* by the same author, also in the LMC Collection.

American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld

Recommended by Christy Barger & Cathy Sheridan

Alice, a kind and bookish only child born in Wisconsin in the 1940s, is very satisfied with her life as a school librarian and registered Democrat until she meets and falls in love with Charlie Blackwell, the son of a large, wealthy clan, and though she learns to adjust to their way of life, things change when he is elected president, and after eight years in the White House Alice is forced to reexamine who she is, what she believes, and how she wants to live. In the LMC Collection.

Anthem by Ayn Rand

Recommended by Larry Swickard

In a future world, only one man dares to think, strive, and love as an individual in the midst of a paralyzing collective humanity. In the LMC Collection.

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

Enzo, the dog of professional race car driver Denny Swift, recalls the memories of his life and shares his insight into the human condition that he learned from observing his owner. Sandy says, "It's funny, touching, sad, and just a great read - especially for dog lovers!" In the LMC Collection.

Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

Recommended by Larry Swickard

A satire on the follies and dangers of collectivism in which the United States is faced with the prospect of economic collapse when the country's leading innovators and industrialists go into hiding.

Bartimaeus Trilogy: *The Amulet of Samarkand*, *The Golem's Eye*, and *Ptolemy's Gate* by Jonathan Stroud

Recommended by Michael Russell

Set in modern-day London, a gripping trilogy that begins with a young magician's apprentice Nathaniel whose parents sell him to the government to become a magician's apprentice. The boy is stripped of his past and is given over for training to a grim, mid-level magician from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In the LMC Collection.

Beach Road by James Patterson

Recommended by Kelli Wilson

Montauk lawyer Tom Dunleavy is hired to represent a high-profile triple-murder suspect, local star athlete Dante Halleyville; but the case becomes complicated by his client's popularity and a dangerous secret being protected by members of East Hampton's elite class. In the LMC Collection.

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

Recommended by Dawn Payne

A group of international guests, taken hostage by terrorists while attending a birthday party at the home of the vice president of a small South American country, form bonds with their captors and enter into an almost idyllic lifestyle, united by the music of Roxanne Coss, opera's most revered soprano.

Belgariad Series by David Eddings

Recommended by Renee Baxter and Lisa Thomas

SciFi series with titles including *Pawn of Prophecy*, *Queen of Sorcery*, *Magician's Gambit*, *Castle of Wizardry*, and *Enchanter's End Game*. The series has magic, adventure, humor, mystery, and insight. In the LMC Collection.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Recommended by Pam Upton and Sandy Stuart

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. Sandy says, "A lovely, lyrical book - I almost never read a book a second time, but this one I did!" Michael Printz Honor Book. In the LMC Collection.

Born to Rebel: *birth order, family dynamics, and creative lives* by Frank J. Sullaway

Recommended by Connie Ficken

A study of human behavior, focusing on why some people develop the propensity to rebel while others are content to maintain the status quo, analyzing revolutions in social and scientific thought, and looking at how birth order and other social influences affect personality.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Recommended by Susan Mosier

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence. Susan says this is a great one for history buffs. On Fall '09 order for LMC Collection.

The Camel Bookmobile by Masha Hamilton

Recommended by Pam Upton

Librarian Fiona Sweeney decides she will help mankind by heading a bookmobile in a remote region of northeastern Kenya and encounters a culture she struggles to understand and resistance from community members who want to preserve their traditions. On Fall '09 order for LMC Collection.

Case Histories: A Novel by Kate Atkinson

Recommended by Kendall Mellem

Kendall's quote: "For mysteries, I like Kate Atkinson. I just finished her *Case Histories*, which is not only a good story but, to my mind, good literature. Often while reading this book, I read her sentences aloud." In the LMC Collection.

Center of Everything by Laura Moriarty

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

Evelyn Bucknow is doing all right living with her single mother, Tina, in a small apartment outside Kerrville, Kansas, until Tina's failed romance with her married boss leaves her jobless and desperate, forcing Evelyn to distance herself and turn to her conventional grandmother for help. Sandy says, "Moriarty is a local author with a national reputation. I loved this book!" In the LMC Collection.

Change of Heart by Jodi Picoult

Recommended by Nancy Daniels

June Nealon's life is shattered when Shay Bourne murders her husband and daughter, but when her eleven-year-old daughter, Claire, needs a heart transplant, Bourne decides that his only chance at redemption is to give Claire his heart after he is put to death, leaving June to decide if she wants to let the man who destroyed her life save her daughter's. In the LMC Collection.

Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier

Recommended by Michael Russell

Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, leaves the hospital where he is being treated and determines to walk home to his sweetheart Ada, only to find the land and the girl he remembers as changed by the war as he. In the LMC Collection.

Devil in the White City: murder, magic, and madness at the fair that changed America by Erik Larsen

Recommended by Michael Russell

An account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 relates the stories of two men who shaped the history of the event--architect Daniel H. Burnham, who coordinated its construction, and serial killer Herman Mudgett. In the LMC Collection.

Dewey: the Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter

Recommended by Nancy Daniels

Tells the story of Dewey Readmore Books, the resident cat at Spencer Public Library in Spencer, Iowa, who was found in the book return in December 1988, adopted by the library staff, and immediately became a loving member of the community. In the LMC Collection.

Dragon Quartet series

Recommended by Lisa Thomas

Includes *Book of Earth*, *Book of Water*, *Book of Fire*, and *Book of Air*. A unique fantasy series that introduces four elemental dragons, who are supposed to sleep after creating the World until World's End. However, one by one, they awaken. In the LMC Collection.

The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde

Recommended by Michael Russell

Thursday Next, a Special Operative in literary detection in a time-altered Great Britain in which messing with the classics is a punishable offense, sets out to apprehend a criminal who is murdering characters from works of literature and has chosen Jane Eyre as his next victim. Also has several sequels. In the LMC Collection.

Faithful Spy and *Ghost War* by Alex Berenson

Recommended by Lisa Thomas

In *Faithful Spy*, which won an Edgar Award for best first novel, CIA agent John Wells discovers an al-Qaeda plot targeting Times Square. In *Ghost War*, be prepared for action involving China, North Korea, and a CIA mole. On Fall '09 order for LMC Collection.

The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World by Eric Weiner

Recommended by Eden Ecklund

National Public Radio correspondent Eric Weiner, a "self-described mope," recounts his travels to ten countries, including India, Bhutan, and Iceland, in search of happiness, describing what he actually found there. In LMC Collection.

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

Recommended by Connie Ficken

In 1956, toward the end of his life, Reverend John Ames begins a letter to his young son, sharing the story of his life and explaining how his faith influenced his choices and actions. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize. In LMC Collection.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Recommended by Connie Ficken

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional and frequently homeless family with an alcoholic father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave. In the LMC Collection.

Gone Tomorrow by P.F. Kluge

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

When George Canaris, a writing professor on the brink of a forced retirement, is killed in a hit-and-run, speculation grows about the book he was supposed to have been working on, and Mark May, a young English professor assigned to be Canaris' literary executor, begins to dig through the life and letters of the campus legend.

The Great Bridge by David McCullough

Recommended by Greg Thiel

Tells the story of the Brooklyn Bridge in the context of the age in which it was built, focusing on the work of Washington A. Roebling who was named Chief Engineer of the Great Bridge after the death of his father.

Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond

Recommended by Connie Ficken

Traces the development of primitive societies showing why some groups advanced more rapidly than others and how this progression explains why various populations stabilize at specific phases of development while others continue to evolve. In the LMC Collection.

The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent

Recommended by Pam Upton

Ten-year-old Sarah Chapman, recovering from smallpox in 1752, becomes caught up in another life and death battle when her mother, Martha, is accused of witchcraft by her uncle who wants the plot of land on which the Chapman family is living, and the rest of the community, looking for a scapegoat for their own troubles, joins the campaign to have Martha hanged. In the LMC Collection.

The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb

Recommended by Christy Barger

After his wife Maureen, a nurse at Columbine High School survived the 1999 student shooting incident, Caelum Quirk moves her to his family's farm in Three Rivers, but while Maureen struggles to recover her sanity, Caelum unearths old diaries, letters, and newspapers--representing five generations of his family's history--hidden in the house. In the LMC Collection.

Hunger Games by Susan Collins

Recommended by Renee Baxter

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death. In the LMC Collection.

Island of Lost Girls by Jennifer McMahon

Recommended by Kelli Wilson

A woman who witnesses a girl's kidnapping by someone in a rabbit costume joins the investigation and finds connections to the disappearance of her own childhood best friend. On Fall '09 Order for LMC Collection.

Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Recommended by Pam Upton

Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official. In the LMC Collection.

The Known World by Edward Jones

Recommended by Connie Ficken

When a plantation proprietor and former slave--now possessing slaves of his own--dies, his household falls apart in the wake of a slave rebellion and corrupt underpaid patrollers who enable free black people to be sold into slavery. Pulitzer Prize winner. In the LMC Collection.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Recommended by Pam Upton & Dawn Payne

Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company. In the LMC Collection.

March by Geraldine Brooks

Recommended by Connie Ficken

Follows the experiences of Mr. March, the father in Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women," as he witnesses the cruelty and racism of both Northern and Southern soldiers and the harsh realities of Civil War. On Fall '09 order for LMC Collection.

Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog by John Grogan

Recommended by Susan Mosier

The author presents a tender story of his family's love for their yellow Labrador retriever, Marley, and recalls how he grew from a mischievous puppy into a nearly impossible adult that no amount of obedience school training could correct, and of the love they felt for him. In the LMC Collection.

Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War by Nathaniel Philbrick

Recommended by Kendall Mellem

Kendall tells us, "This books covers the establishment of Plymouth Plantation through the end of King Philip's War. I couldn't put it down. It's painstakingly researched but reads like a novel." In the LMC Collection.

Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards

Recommended by Stephanie Watson

Stephanie's summary: It is about a family in the 50s who have twins, one of which has Down Syndrome. The husband gives the baby to his nurse, who is supposed to drop her off at an institution, without telling his wife. The story follows the family, and the abandoned baby, throughout the years and tracks the impact of the father's decision. In the LMC Collection.

Mornings on Horseback by David McCullough

Recommended by Greg Thiel

The story of an extraordinary family, a vanished way of life and the unique child who became Theodore Roosevelt. In the LMC Collection.

My Lobotomy by Howard Dully and Charles Fleming

Recommended by Eden Ecklund

Gut-wrenching memoir by a man who was lobotomized at the age of 12. In 1960, Dully received a transorbital or "ice pick" lobotomy from Dr. Walter Freeman, who invented the procedure, making Dully an unfortunate statistic in medical history--the youngest of the more than 10,000 patients who Freeman lobotomized to cure their supposed mental illness. On Fall '09 order for LMC Collection.

One Thousand White Women: the journals of Mary Dodd by Jim Fergus

Recommended by Pam Upton

In her journal, May Dodd records her experiences as a Cheyenne Indian bride, traded by the government in 1875 as part of a secret peace treaty with the Cheyenne nation. In the LMC Collection.

Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

Recommended by Dawn Payne

In the 1960s, a spiritual man named Jeremiah Land sets out from his Minnesota home with his young son and daughter to find his elder son, Davy, after he escapes jail on the morning of his sentencing for murder. In the LMC Collection.

Playing for Pizza by John Grisham

Recommended by Susan Mosier

After losing an important game for his team, NFL backup quarterback Rick Dockery is fired, but his agent finds him an opportunity to play for the Panthers of Parma, and even though he has never been to Europe, he moves to Italy hoping for a second chance. In the LMC Collection.

Promise Not to Tell by Jennifer McMahon

Recommended by Kelli Wilson

Soon after returning to her childhood home in Vermont to care for her mother who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, Kate Cypher learns about a recent murder that is similar to one thirty-one years earlier in which her friend Del was the victim, and as she investigates, surprising details about the community begin to unfold. On Fall '09 Order for LMC Collection.

Quaker City by George Lippard

Recommended by Dawn Palmer

A romance of Philadelphia life, mystery, and crime from a 19th century crime writer. Dawn says, "If you like gross and gruesome whatever, you'll like this book. You'll never look at the 19th century the same way again!"

The Reader by Bernhard Schlink

Recommended by Kelli Wilson

Translation of a German novel about the erotic awakening of fifteen-year-old Michael Berg who engages in a secret affair with a mysterious older woman. In the LMC Collection.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Recommended by Michael Russell

Traces the journey of a father and his son as they walk alone after a great fire has consumed the nation and left everything in ashes. In the LMC Collection.

The Shack by William P. Young

Recommended by Nancy Daniels, Melissa Leck, Kelli Wilson, Kara Franke, and Jeff Meisenheimer

After Missy is abducted during a vacation and evidence of her murder shows up at a shack in the forests of Oregon, Mackenzie Philips, her father, receives a strange note inviting him to return to the scene of the tragedy where he wrestles with nightmarish religious questions. In the LMC Collection.

Shattered Air: A True Account of Catastrophe and Courage on Yosemite's Half Dome by Bob Madgic

Recommended by Michael Russell

Chronicles the events surrounding a 1985 tragedy on Yosemite's Half Dome, in which two hikers were killed in a lightning strike that injured three others and led EMTs on a harrowing midnight rescue.

Skin by Ted Dekker

Recommended by Jessi Lueck

Jessi says, It's "UNREAL!" As a series of deadly tornados bears down on the town of Summerville, an even deadlier killer known as Red terrorizes the town's residents and unleashes a shocking secret that will tear the town apart. On Fall '09 order for LMC Collection.

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson

Recommended by Michael Russell

When a newspaper journalist covers the trial of a Japanese American accused of murder, he must come to terms with his own past. In the LMC Collection.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

Recommended by Dawn Payne & Sandy Stuart

Friends Snow Flower and Lily find solace in their bond as they face isolation, arranged marriages, loss, and motherhood in nineteenth-century China. Sandy says, "This is a beautiful and heart-breaking story. One of my all time favorites!" In the LMC Collection.

Specialty Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

Sixteen-year-old Blue van Meer and her professor father settle into North Carolina after a decade of moves, where she becomes a part of an elite group of student intellectuals and is rocked by the suspicious death of their mentor, film studies teacher Hannah Schneider, whose murder she tries to solve. Sandy: "I loved the literary, philosophical, and even pop culture references that fill Blue's head! A fun and interesting read!" In the LMC Collection.

The Stone Diaries by Carol Shields

Recommended by Connie Ficken

An aged woman discovers herself as she reflects upon her life, which spans much of the 20th century.

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

Edgar Sawtelle, born mute, lives contentedly on his parents' Wisconsin farm helping raise a unique breed of dogs developed by his grandfather to embody the qualities of companionship and wisdom, but the death of his father and his belief that his uncle had something to do with it, force him to flee to the forest with only three yearlings for companionship, where he struggles to survive until the need to confront his uncle leads him home again. Sandy: "Summer is a good time to read this very long but amazing book! A combination of Hamlet and canine appreciation!" In the LMC Collection.

Sword of Truth Series by Terry Goodkind

Recommended by Renee Baxter

Includes *Wizard's First Rule*, *Stone of Tears*, *Blood of the Fold*, *Temple of the Winds*, *Soul of the Fire*, *Faith of the Fallen*, *Pillars of Creation*, *Naked Empire*, & *Chainfire*. The books follow the protagonists Richard Rahl, Kahlan Amnell and Zeddicus Zu'l Zorander on their quest to defeat oppressors who seek to control the world and those who wish to unleash evil upon the world of the living. In the LMC Collection.

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Recommended by Michael Russell

Presents an overview of the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, explaining the genius of his political savvy, and describes the context in which he assigned a cadre of his fiercest rivals as his closest cabinet advisors. In the LMC Collection.

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

Aging, reclusive author Vida Winter, having given out multiple versions of her life story over the years, decides to finally set the record straight and engages Margaret Lea, a London bookseller's daughter, to write her biography, drawing the young woman into a tale of a governess, a ghost, a willful woman, feral twins, and a gothic mansion. In the LMC Collection.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Recommended by Pam Upton and Sandy Stuart

A novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban, which tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband. In the LMC Collection.

Tribute by Nora Roberts

Recommended by Kathy Koonce

"Murder, mystery, humor & romance!" says Kathy. Former child actress Cilla McGowan just wants to be left alone to restore the farmhouse that belonged to her superstar grandmother, but then she discovers letters that make her wonder about her grandmother's untimely death.

Twilight series by Stephenie Meyer

Recommended by Lisa Thomas and Stephanie Watson

Includes *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*. Adults are loving this series as much as our students do! In the LMC Collection.

Uglies series by Scott Westerfeld

Recommended by Lisa Thomas

Includes *Uglies*, *Pretties*, *Specials*, and *Extras*. In *Uglies*, Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like. In LMC Collection.

***Walking the Gobi: A 1600-mile Trek across a Desert of Hope and Despair* by Helen Thayer**

Recommended by Eden Ecklund

Helen Thayer recounts her 1,600-mile journey across Mongolia's Gobi Desert, which she crossed with her seventy-four-year-old husband, Bill, and two camels named Tom and Jerry, describing the inhospitable conditions, personal challenges, and dangers they faced along the way. In the LMC Collection.

***Was God on Vacation?* by Jack van der Geest**

Recommended by Brad Scherer

A World War II autobiography about the Holocaust.

***Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen**

Recommended by Pam Upton

Ninety-year-old Jacob Jankowski finds himself haunted by memories of his past in the circus and the freaks, exotic animals, and other people he encountered as a performer. In LMC Collection.

***What is the What? the autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng : a novel* by Dave Eggers**

Recommended by Connie Ficken

A fictionalized memoir of Valentino Achak Deng, a Sudanese refugee who was forced from his home by the Second Sudanese Civil War and faced many difficulties before coming to the United States. In Atlanta, too-trusting Valentino Achak Deng opens his door to strangers and is beaten and robbed at gunpoint. Lying on the floor, tied up with telephone cord, he begins silently to tell his life story to one of his captors. . . In LMC

***Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell**

Recommended by Kendall Mellem

Kendall's quote: " If you like your colonial history fast, funny and furious, try Sarah Vowell's *The Wordy Shipmates*. She's so irreverent that you know she must really respect her subject matter." On Fall '09 order for LMC Collection.

Late Edition

***State of Fear* by Michael Crichton**

Recommended by Gene Maurer

A series of events around the world are a prelude to global catastrophe, including glaciers in Iceland, volcanoes in the Antarctic, the Arizona desert, through the jungles of the Solomon Islands, the streets of Paris, and the beaches of Los Angeles. Gene says, "The book is full of statistics (I have looked several up already and they come from established sources) that are really interesting."