**Summer 2015 SHS 9th Grade Reading List**

**Non-Fiction**

**We Beat the Street*:* How a Friendship Pact Led to Success** By: Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt, with Sharon M. Draper

(AVAILABLE IN MRS. WAGAMAN’S ROOM) R.L. 5.8 Pts: 7

For Drs. Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins, growing up in street-tough Newark, New Jersey, was not an easy experience. Then one day – while trying to skip class to shoot hoop - the boys found themselves listening to a special presentation about the Seton Hall University Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus program. For the first time ever, the three friends believed that they might really have an opportunity to make their dreams come true.

**I am Malala: the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban** By: Malala Yousafzai

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 7.1 Pts: 16

Malala Yousafzai's describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

**Outcasts united: the story of a refugee soccer team that changed a town** By: Warren St. John

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 6.7 Pts: 9

American-educated Jordanian Luma Mufleh founds a youth soccer team comprised of children from Liberia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkan states, and elsewhere in the refugee settlement town of Clarkston, Georgia, bringing the children together to discover their common bonds as they adjust to life in a new homeland.

**A hope in the unseen: an American odyssey from the inner city to the Ivy League** By: Ron Suskind

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 7.5 Pts: 24

Follows gifted African-American student Cedric Jennings from his crime-infested high school in Washington D.C. to his junior year at Brown University, discussing the problems he encountered along the road out of the ghetto.

**Chinese Cinderella: the true story of an unwanted daughter** By: Adeline Yen Mah

(Get through Power Library) R.L: 5.7 Pts: 8

The author tells the story of her painful childhood in China where she lived until the age of fourteen with her father, stepmother, and siblings, all of whom considered her bad luck because her mother died shortly after giving birth to her.

**True notebooks: a writer's year at Juvenile Hall** By: Mark Salzman

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 5.3 Pts: 14

Mark Salzman chronicles his first years teaching at Central Juvenile Hall, a lockup for Los Angeles's most violent teenage offenders, discussing what his students taught him about life.

**The Freedom Writers diary: how a teacher and 150 teens used writing to change themselves and the world around them** By: Erin Gruwell

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 6.4 Pts: 15

Tells the story of how young English teacher Erin Gruwell confronted the problem of racial and ethnic intolerance in her classroom, and features excerpts from the diaries of her students, now known as The Freedom Writers.

**Enrique's journey** By: Sonia Nazario

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 5.6 Pts: 12

Addresses the issues of family and illegal immigration through the story of a young boy's dangerous journey from Honduras to the U.S. in search of his mother, who left him and his sibling behind make a better life for her family.

**The other Wes Moore: one name, two fates** By: Wes Moore

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 7.1 Pts: 11

The author, a Rhodes scholar and combat veteran, analyzes the various sociocultural factors that influenced him as well as another man of the same name and from the same neighborhood who was drawn into a life of drugs and crime and ended up serving life in prison, focusing on the influence of relatives, mentors, and social expectations that could have led either of them on different paths.

**No choirboy: murder, violence, and teenagers on death row**  By: Susan Kuklin

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 5.2 Pts: 7

A collection of essays in which inmates at American prisons who were sentenced to death while still in their teens share their thoughts and feelings about how they ended up in prison and how they feel about capital punishment.

**Hole in my life** By: Jack Gantos

(In the Bradford County Public Library System) R.L.: 5.7 Pts: 7

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

**The innocent man: murder and injustice in a small town** By: John Grisham

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 8.1 Pts: 20

In 1982, a twenty one year old cocktail waitress in Ada named Debra Sue Carter was raped and murdered, and for five years the police could not solve the crime.. If you believe that in America you are innocent until proven guilty, this book will shock you. If you believe in the death penalty, this book will disturb you. If you believe the criminal justice system is fair, this book will infuriate you.

**Life on the Mississippi** By: Mark Twain

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 9.1 Pts: 24

An account of life on the Mississippi in the old steamboat days and Twain's experiences as a pilot.

**Four perfect pebbles: a Holocaust story** By: Lila Perl and Marion Blumenthal Lazan

(Get through Bradford County Public Library System) R.L.: 7.3 Pts: 4

The author tells the story of her family's experiences as Jews in Hitler's Germany, tracing their horrifying journey from their home country to Holland and back again, living in refugee, transit, and prison camps, including Bergen-Belson.

**Three little words: a memoir** By: Ashley Rhodes-Courter

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 5.4 Pts: 12

Ashley spent nine years in foster care after being taken away from her mother. She endured many caseworkers, moving from school to school and manipulative, humiliating and abusive treatment from one foster family. See how she survives and eventually thrives against the odds.

**The Glass Castle** By: Jeanette Walls

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 5.9 Pts: 12

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional 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 home.

**The story of my life** By: Helen Keller

 (At Sayre PL) R.L.: 6.8 Pts: 12

An autobiography of Helen Keller, written while she was a young woman, in which she tells of her early life, her relationship with her teacher Anne Sullivan, and her struggles to triumph over blindness and deafness.

**Escape: Children of the Holocaust** By: Allan Zullo

(A FEW available from Mrs. Wagaman, otherwise use Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 6.3 Pts. 7.0

This book provides true stories of young people who have survived the Holocaust, based on extensive, first-person interviews and other documented accounts.

**Classics (Fiction)**

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** By: Mildred D. Taylor

(a FEW available from Mrs. Wagaman, otherwise use Sayre PL) R.L. 5.7 Pts: 10

Warmth, humor, and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi.

**The Devil’s Arithmetic** By Jane Yolen

(a FEW available from Wagaman, otherwise use Bradford County Library System) R.L. 4.6 Pts: 6

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage, until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

**A tree grows in Brooklyn** By: Betty Smith

(In Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 5.8 Pts: 23

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.

**Watership Down** By: Richard Adams

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 6.2 Pts: 25

A group of hardy Berkshire rabbits share many adventures together as they search for a safe place to establish a new warren after the destruction of their community.

**A separate peace** By: John Knowles

(AVAILABLE IN MRS.WAGAMAN’S ROOM) R.L.: 6.9 Pts: 10

Gene Forrester looks back fifteen years to a World War II year in which he and his best friend Phineas were roommates in a New Hampshire boarding school. Their friendship is marred by Finny's crippling fall, an event for which Gene is responsible and one that eventually leads to tragedy.

**Journey to the centre of the earth** By: Jules Verne

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 9.9 Pts: 17

A team of explorers makes an expedition into an Icelandic crater which leads to the centre of the earth and to incredible and horrifying discoveries.

**The Martian chronicles** By: Ray Bradbury

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 6.2 Pts: 9

The first Earth people to attempt the colonization of Mars try to build their new world in the image of the civilization they left behind.

**Around the world in eighty days** By: Jules Verne

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 9.6 Pts: 12

Eccentric Englishman Phileas Fogg embarks on an exciting adventure after accepting a bet at his London club that he can complete a journey around the world in only eighty days.

**The Time Machine** By: H.G. Wells

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 7.4 Pts: 6

The Time Traveller journeys 800,000 years into the future and discovers two bizarre races at war on the Earth, the ethereal Eloi and the subterranean Morlocks.

**Heart of Darkness** By: Joseph Conrad

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 9 Pts: 10

Marlow, a sea captain from an English trading company, embarks on a troubling journey into the Congo jungle to retrieve a renegade trader who has become mad with greed and power over the natives.

**The Prince and the Pauper** By: Mark Twain

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 9.5 Pts: 13

When young Edward VI of England and a poor boy who resembles him exchange places, each learns something about the other's very different station in life.

**Silas Marner** By: George Eliot

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 9.7 Pts: 14

A bitter man living alone with his hoard of gold learns about the power of love when his riches are stolen and a beautiful child is left on his doorstep.

**Uncle Tom’s Cabin** By: Harriet Beecher Stowe

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 9.3 Pts: 32

The story of American slavery and an African-American man who never lost dignity under the most inhumane circumstances.

**The Invisible Man** By: H.G. Wells

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 7.7 Pts: 9

The tale of a scientist who discovers how to make his body become invisible, but, when he can't make himself visible again, becomes violently insane.

**20,000 Leagues under the sea** By: Jules Verne

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 10 Pts: 28

An American frigate tracks down a ship-sinking submarine commanded by the mysterious Captain Nemo.

**Alas Babylon** By: Pat Frank

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 6.1 Pts: 16

The story of a group of people who rely on their own courage and ingenuity to survive in a small Florida town that escaped nuclear bombing.

**The First Men in the Moon** By: H.G. Wells

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 7.7 Pts: 12

Presents H.G. Wells' 1901 novel in which Cavor, a scientist, and his materialistic companion Bedford, travel to the moon in a ship built by Cavor, where they encounter a hostile race of biologically engineered creatures.

**The Island of Dr. Moreau** By: H.G. Wells

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 7.2 Pts: 7

Victims of a shipwreck in the Pacific discover an island ruled by an ominous scientist who performs ghastly genetic experiments which change animals into grotesque, partially human creatures.

**Modern Literature (Fiction)**

**Every Soul a Star** By: Wendy Mass

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 4.7 Pts: 11

Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, to watch a total eclipse of the sun; but soon they begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe.

**The absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian** By: Sherman Alexie

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 4.0 Pts: 6

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.

**Let’s Get Lost** By: Aldi Alsaid

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 6.1 Pts: 13

Five strangers. Countless adventures. One epic way to get lost. Four teens across the country have only one thing in common: a girl named LEILA. She crashes into their lives in her absurdly red car at the moment they need someone the most.

**Stolen** By: Lucy Christopher

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 4.3 Pts: 12

Sixteen-year-old Gemma, a British city-dweller, is abducted while on vacation with her parents and taken to the Australian outback, where she soon realizes that escape attempts are futile, and in time she learns that her captor is not as despicable as she first believed.

**Deadline** By: Chris Crutcher

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 5.1 Pts: 10

Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide known as "Hey-Soos."

**Just One Day** By: Gayle Forman

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 4.6 Pts: 14

"Sparks fly when American good girl Allyson encounters laid-back Dutch actor Willem, so she follows him on a whirlwind trip to Paris, upending her life in just one day and prompting a year of self-discovery and the search for true love."

**Looking for Alaska** By: John Green

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 5.8 Pts: 11

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

**13 Little Blue Envelopes** By: Maureen Johnson

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 5.0 Pts: 9

When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

**Speak** By: Laurie Halse Anderson

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 4.5 Pts: 7

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

**Uglies** By: Scott Westerfeld

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 5.2 Pts: 13

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

**Now is the Time for Running** By: Michael Williams

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 4.3 Pts: 7

When soldiers attack a small village in Zimbabwe, Deo goes on the run with Innocent, his older, mentally disabled brother, carrying little but a leather soccer ball filled with money, and after facing prejudice, poverty, and tragedy, it is in soccer that Deo finds renewed hope.

**Ship Breaker** By: Paolo Bacigalupi

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 4.4 Pts: 11

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

**An abundance of Katherines** By: John Green

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 5.6 Pts: 10

Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

**Life as we knew it** By: Susan Beth Pfeffer

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 4.7 Pts: 14

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

**The Graveyard Book** By: Neil Gaiman

(At Sayre PL) R.L.: 5.1 Pts: 10

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

**The Skin I’m In** By Sharon Flake

(In the Bradford County Library System) R.L.: 4.1 Pts: 4

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.

**Bound** By: Donna Jo Napoli

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 5.4 Pts: 6

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.

**Berlin Boxing Club** By: Robert Sharenow

(Get through Power Library) R.L.: 5.7 Pts: 13

In 1936 Berlin, fourteen-year-old Karl Stern, considered Jewish despite a non-religious upbringing, learns to box from the legendary Max Schmeling while struggling with the realities of the Holocaust.

**Ellen Foster** By: Kaye Gibbons

(at Sayre PL) R.L.: 4.7 Pts: 6

Having suffered abuse and misfortune for much of her life, a young child searches for a better life and finally gets a break in the home of a loving woman with several foster children.

**The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy** By: Douglas Adams

(at Sayre PL) R.L.: 6.6 Pts: 8

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

**Tears of a Tiger** By Sharon Draper

(AVAILABLE IN MRS. WAGAMAN’S ROOM) R.L.: 4.3 Pts: 4

The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

**Sunrise Over Fallujah** By: Walter Dean Myers

(A FEW available in Mrs. Wagaman’s room) R.L. 5.3 Pts: 11

Robin Perry from Harlem is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.