

Foreign Language Summer Reading Suggestions:

Chinese selections:

Morey and Dunn. *Famous Asian Americans.* How the successful immigrants or America born asians overcome their difficulties to live in the western world and their motivation for high achievements.

Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club.* This books describes the mother-daughter relation in asian culture. The moon lady can grant any wish, where a child promise a marriage at 2, deliver at 12, can with cunning free herself....

Tan, Amy. *The Hundred Secret Senses.* Stories about a young girl's childhood, courtship, and marriage. Secret senses linking the present with the past.

Ed. by Forte, Antonino and Masini, Federico. *Life Journey to the East.* Collection essays in memory of Gluliano Bertuccioli, a formal diplomat and professor of Chinese literature at the Univer. of Rome. Essays including the tradition of Chinese Buddhism, the history of Sino-Western relations.

Zanier, Claudio. *Where the Roads Met.* This book explores the role of exchanges between Europe and China in the development of pre-modern silk technology particularly focused on silk production in the Italian Kingdom of Piedmont.

Priestley, Tom. *China and the Forbidden City* (video). Peabody award. Film contains the treasure of emperors for many many dynasties and hundreds of years.

Giles, Lionel (translator). *Art of War.* This is the oldest military treatise in the world. It was translated from the Chinese with introduction and critical notes by Giles in the Dept. of Oriented Printed Books in the British museum. This book includes principals and strategies of wars which can be used as references applied to challenged situation.

Li, Yan and Du Shrian. *Mathematics in China.* A very interesting book briefly outlined the history of Chinese mathematics since 200BCE or earlier. How the calculations were performed in ancient China; Zhoubai suanjing describes one of the theories of heavens in early Han dynasty; Pythagorean theorem for survey astronomy; use bamboo rods to do fractions and segments...

Others: assorted Chinese Children's Books (in Chinese) I selected from China.

Russian Selections:

Prose:

Pushkin, Alexander. *Eugene Onegin.* Begin the Russian literature at the beginning with the poet who put St. Petersburg on the map as a center of culture.

Pushkin, Alexander. *The Captain's Daughter.* The story is fun to read; it has Russian history, adventure and romance, - plus, in the end everybody is happy.

Pushkin, Alexander. A legendary tale of the conflict between two legendary composers; Pushkin captures the readers' attention.

Gogol, Nikolai. *The Overcoat.* The story is "the root" of all modern Russian short stories, a necessity to read it if one has anything to do with Russian culture.

Gogol, Nikolai. *The Nose.* Examine the comical and ridiculous that Russian life had to offer in the 19th century. A very funny story about a man whose nose has run away from him and about this man's adventures trying to catch it.

Dostoevsky, Fedor. *White Nights*. Walk through the dark side of St. Petersburg through the eyes of the city's very own genius. Learn how Dostoevsky made St. Petersburg a legendary city.

Dostoevsky, Fedor. *Crime and Punishment*. The psychological struggles of Raskolnikov lead the reader of this book to question his/her own morality and place in society.

Chekhov, Anton. *Short stories*. Whatever story you read, comic or tragic, they all are an amusing and energizing reading raising the question of the meaning of our existence.

Tolstoy, Lev. *The Kreutzer Sonata*. The work is very grounded in the author's Christian philosophy, examines questions of gender roles, sex, marriage that are still relevant today

Bulgakov, Michael. *Master and Margarita*. Brimming with religious, political and social critique, the novel provides a wild ride for readers. The characters are bright and energetic and their escapades bring to light many issues relevant today. A compelling story with a lot of twists and turns.

Poetry:

Akhmatova, Anna. Delightful reading about finding the happiness in life, about love and history intervened.

Brodsky, Josef. Discover modern style in Russian and world poetry. Energetic and compelling.

Spanish Selections:

beginner (Spanish 1-2):

Kanter, Abby. *La Gran Aventura de Alejandro*.

isbn 0-87720-135-8 Amsco. This is an adventure story.

Kanter, Abby. *Viviana y su gran aventura mexicana*.

isbn 0-87720-475-4 Amsco This is an adventure story about Viviana and her trip to Mexico. Mexican history and culture are introduced in the story.

Wasserman, Marvin & Carol. *Susana y Javier en España*. isbn 1-56765-478-9 Amsco.

This book is thirty four chapters in a form of a travel journal.

intermediate Spanish 2-4:

Wasserman, Marvin. *Susana y Javier en Sudamerica*. (isbn 0-87720-131-5) Amsco. This book has twenty two chapters about Susana and Javier's trip to South America.

Cabat, Louis and Robert. *Momentos Hispanos* (isbn 1-56765-467-3) Amsco. This book has twenty stories about different Spanish speaking countries.

Flores, Angel. *First Spanish Reader - A beginners dual-language book*.

isbn 0-486-25810-6 Dover Publications. This book has easy to read adaptations of classic Spanish stories with English translations. It also has comprehension questions.

Tardy, William. *Easy Spanish Reader*. (isbn 0-07-142806-2) McGraw Hill. This book has three parts. The first part is the story of two high school students who are involved in their Spanish club at school. The second part has readings about the history of Mexico. The third part is an adaptation of the classic Spanish story Lazarillo de Tormes. The book has exercises and an answer key. (Spanish 2-4)

Yates, Jean. *Better Reading Spanish*. (isbn 0-07-139137-1)

This book has short passages about contemporary issues and situations covering cuisine, sports, music, politics, history, and cinema. It also has exercises to help develop reading skills with an answer key. (Spanish 2-4)

Santiago, Esmeralda. *Cuando era puertorriqueña.* Autobiography. Excellent. The life of an extraordinary woman. Vintage Español Editorial

Cisneros, Sandra. *The house on Mango Street.* Cisneros creates unforgettable characters.

Penguin Parallel Text Spanish Short Stories 2. Highly entertaining selection of stories. Insight into the cultural and social milieu of the Spanish-speaking world. Gudie Lawaetz Editorial

García Márquez, Gabriel. *Cómo se cuenta un cuento.* Taller de guión de Gabriel García Márquez

Cortázar, Julio. *La autopista del sur y otros cuentos.*

Asturias, Miguel A. *Leyendas de Guatemala.* Mayan culture. (For Spanish students)ER Easy Readers. Grafisk Forlag A/S

Acquaroni Muñoz, Rosana. *Soñar un crimen.* Nivel 1 Colección Leer en Español Universidad de Salamanca y Santillana, S.A.

French Selections:

Daudet, Alphonse. *Les Lettres de mon moulin.* What a great way to discover the many charming personalities of “le Midi”, or the South of France? (isbn: 2253005258)

Vary, Andrée. *Contes et légendes de France : A collection of French tales.* An anthology of legends and folktales from all over France. The plots are comical and engaging and the “fantastical” characters are delightful. (isbn: 0-8442-1210-5) (Intermediate, French 2-4)

Vary, Andrée et Brouillet, Claire. *Contes et légendes du monde francophone.* “Why do mosquitoes buzz around our ears? How do thieves divide their booty? How far would a girl’s parents go to discourage a suitor? A unique collection of folktales and legends gathered from throughout the French-speaking world.” (isbn: 0-8442-1209-1) (Intermediate, French 2-4)

Sempe/Gosciny. *Le Petit Nicolas.* (isbn : 207052472) The many adventures of Petit Nicolas and his friends reveal the many commonalities amongst young people growing up. These stories are among the most popular and enjoyable French paperbacks for adults and children.

Sempe/Gosciny. *Petit Nicolas a des ennuis.* (isbn : 2070513416)

Sempe/Gosciny. *Les récrès du Petit Nicolas.* (isbn : 2070513351)

Sempe/Gosciny. *Le Petit Nicolas et les copains.* (isbn : 2070513424)

Sartre, Jean-Paul. *No Exit.* Three characters in hell explore what people can do to and for each other. (Grades 10, 11, or 12)

Camus, Albert. *The Stranger.* A murder in hot French Algeria on the beach, a trial, and the question of the meaning of our existence. (Grades 10, 11, or 12)

Beckett, Samuel. *Waiting for Godot.* What’s more absurd than waiting? A famous 20th century play about the meaning of life...and waiting, of course. (Grades 10, 11, or 12)

Mérimée, Prosper. *Mateo Falcone.* Who doesn’t lie to their parents? How important is honor, anyway? Tony Soprano-type characters in 19th century Corsica. (Grades 10, 11, or 12)

Ms. Rivkin recommends:

A Hundred Secret Senses by Amy Tan: For the same reason that I like the film Dead Again, the characters in this book has stayed with me for years after I read it. Tan's characters are so believable in both virtues and flaws, that it will be hard to think of a world without Yin people. The title comes from this line: "If people we love die, then they are lost only to our ordinary senses. If we remember, we can find them any time with our hundred secret senses."

A.R.T. (a play) by Yasmina Reza: Originally written in French by a modern French author whose family tree is Jewish, Iranian, and Hungarian, this very funny and thoughtful and neurotically peopled play transports us to Paris, to questioning the identity and value of art, friendship, beauty, and more. It ran on Broadway and in Paris, and it's worth a read!

The Dragon (a play) by E.L. Schwarz (originally in Russian) I saw this great political satire in French at the National Theater in Paris and in Philadelphia in English at the very local Arden Theater in two very different productions. Presented as a three act fairy tale, The Dragon explores the human need to succumb to tyranny. It has so many applications to our lives, not the least of which is understanding that change starts from within. Here is a link to the English translation: <http://a7sharp9.com/dragon.html>

Mrs. Rollfinke recommends:

Emma by Jane Austen: This is one of my all-time favorites, and I think it is Austen's best. I know there is a film, but it cannot compare to the original novel. Beautiful heroine, Emma, thinks she has a knack for matchmaking, but her elaborate plans do not work out. Ultimately, she has to admit her errors, and figure out who is the best match for herself. A delightful read.

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver: A poignant story about a young woman trying to figure out her life. She buys an old Volkswagon bug and drives it until it runs out of gas and ends up in Taylorville. During her travels, she “inherits” a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, befriends a number of interesting people, and ends up finding a home. I really enjoyed it!

Chasing Cézanne by Peter Mayle: Peter Mayle is a British author who writes with great humor about France. Glamorous art photographer Andre spots Claude loading a precious Cézanne into the back of a plumber’s van. Andre, Lucy, his agent and love interest, along with Cyrus, a wealthy art dealer, decide to investigate, and the adventure begins. I really enjoyed this tale, in particular the descriptions of art, food and the French Riviera.

St-Exupéry, Antoine de. *The Little Prince*. Pre-Spielberg ET, there was this little boy from another planet. Don't miss it if you haven't yet read it. (Grades 10, 11, or 12)

Balzac, Pere Goriot. How much should a father do to help his daughters live well?

Balzac, Eugenie Grandet. What happens to a young lady when her dad is stingy?

Georges Simenon, Le Meurtre d'un etudiant. Read Simenon, the Agatha Christie of France, in this murder mystery, written in everyday French.

Proust, Swann's Way --in English. Proust is considered by many to be the greatest modern author.

This volume is part of a series, and deals with the relationship between childhood, memory, and time.

Cholderlos de laclos, Les Liaisons dangereuses--in English. A scheming couple use people to challenge each other and heighten their own relationship. A psychological drama, hard to put down.

Poetry:

Lalonde, Michèle. "Speak white". Key poem for understanding the division between the anglo and francophone populations in 1970 Quebec. (Grades 10, 11, or 12)

Prevert, Jacques. "Déjeuner du matin". Easy grammar, easy reading, sophisticated depiction of the end of a love affair. (Grades 10, 11, or 12)