

2008: "METAMORPHOSIS @ YOUR LIBRARY"



East Rochester
School District

Grades 11 and 12

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST

Hamamura, John – Color of the Sea: Raised in Japan and Hawaii, Sam Hamada has been trained in the ways of the samurai. After graduation Sam strikes out for California and falls in love for the first time, with a beautiful young woman named Keiko. But then the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, igniting the war and making Sam, Keiko, and their families enemies of the state. Drafted into the U.S. Army, sent on a secret mission, Sam's very identity both puts his life at risk and gives him the strength he needs to survive. Taking us from the lush Hawaiian Islands of the 1930s to the wartime world of madness in Hiroshima, *Color of the Sea* is the unforgettable story of one Japanese boy's coming-of-age.

Kafka, Franz – The Metamorphosis: "When Gregor Samsa woke up one morning from unsettling dreams, he found himself changed in his bed into a monstrous vermin." With this startling, bizarre, yet surprisingly funny first sentence, Kafka begins his masterpiece. It is the story of a young man who, transformed overnight into a giant beetle-like insect, becomes an object of disgrace to his family, an outsider in his own home, a quintessentially alienated man.

Kingsolver, Barbara - Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life (non-fiction): Kingsolver and her family sweep readers along on their journey away from the industrial-food pipeline to a rural life in which they vow to buy only food raised in their own neighborhood, grow it themselves, or learn to live without it. Their good-humored search yields surprising discoveries about turkey sex life and overly zealous zucchini plants, en route to a food culture that's better for the neighborhood and also better on the table.

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Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* makes a passionate case for putting the kitchen back at the center of family life and diversified farms at the center of the American diet.

Satrapi, Marjane - The Complete Persepolis: "A memoir of growing up as a girl in revolutionary Iran, *Persepolis* provides a unique glimpse into a nearly unknown and unreachable way of life... That Satrapi chose to tell her remarkable story as a gorgeous comic book makes it totally unique and indispensable." –Time With somewhat stark, primitive art, this graphic novel tells a fascinating story of self and cultural discovery. If you've never read a graphic novel, this may be the one to start with.

Schlosser, Eric – Fast Food Nation (non-fiction): Fast food has hastened the "malling" of our landscape, widened the chasm between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad. That's a lengthy list of charges, but Eric Schlosser makes them stick with an artful mix of first-rate reportage, wry wit, and careful reasoning. This myth-shattering survey stretches from California's subdivisions, where the business was born, to the industrial corridor along the New Jersey Turnpike, where many of fast food's flavors are concocted. Along the way, he unearths a trove of fascinating, unsettling truths—from the unholy alliance between fast food and Hollywood to the seismic changes the industry has wrought in food production, popular culture, and even real estate.

Wooding, Chris - The Haunting of Alaizabel Cray: Thaniel, just seventeen, is a "wych-hunter". Together, he and Cathaline--his friend and mentor--track down the fearful creatures that lurk in the Old Quarter of London. It is on one of these hunts that he first encounters Alaizabel Cray. Alaizabel is half-crazed, lovely, and possessed. Whatever dreadful entity has entered her soul has turned her into a strange and unearthly magnet— attracting evil and drawing horrors from every dark corner. Cathaline and Thaniel must discover its cause—and defend humanity at all costs.

Summaries adapted from Amazon.com listings.

**Brian Regan, High School Librarian
Summer 2008**

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Cray: Thaniel, just seventeen, is a "wych-hunter". Together, he and Cathaline--his friend and mentor--track down the fearful creatures that lurk in the Old Quarter of London. It is on one of these hunts that he first encounters Alaizabel Cray. Alaizabel is half-crazed, lovely, and possessed. Whatever dreadful entity has entered her soul has turned her into a strange and unearthly magnet— attracting evil and drawing horrors from every dark corner. Cathaline and Thaniel must discover its cause—and defend humanity at all costs.

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