

# 2008: "METAMORPHOSIS @ YOUR LIBRARY"



East Rochester  
School District

## Grades 9 and 10

### SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST

**Alexie, Sherman – The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian:** The story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. His story is funny, heartbreaking, and told in a truly unique voice. A candidate for the National Book Award.

**Dessen, Sara – Lock and Key:** “Ruby, where is your mother?” Ruby knows that the game is up. For the past few months, she’s been on her own in the yellow house, managing somehow, knowing that her mother will probably never return. That’s how she comes to live with Cora, the sister she hasn’t seen in ten years, and Cora’s husband Jamie, whose down-to-earth demeanor makes it hard for Ruby to believe he founded the most popular networking Web site around. A luxurious house, fancy private school, a new wardrobe, the promise of college and a future—it’s a dream come true. So why is Ruby such a reluctant Cinderella, wary and defensive? And why is Nate, the genial boy next door with some secrets of his own, unable to accept the help that Ruby is just learning to give?

**Dickinson, Peter – Eva:** Following a terrible car crash, Eva, 14, awakens from a strange dream and finds herself in a hospital bed. Medical science has allowed doctors to pull her functioning brain from her crushed body and put it into the able body of a chimpanzee, whose instincts and subconscious memories stay with her. Great realistic sci-fi that raises some interesting questions of ethics.

**Gratz, Alan – Something Rotten:** Something is rotten in Denmark, Tennessee, and it is not just the polluted Copenhagen River. Hamilton Prince’s father has been murdered, according to a hidden video message. Horatio Wilkes, Hamilton’s best friend, is visiting the Prince mansion when the video turns up. The guys need to find the killer before he strikes again. This is a noir-ish mystery with amusing ties and parallels to a certain play by Mr. Shakespeare.

**Roach, Mary - Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers (non-fiction):** Stiff is an oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. For two thousand years, cadavers—some willingly, some unwittingly—have been involved in science’s boldest strides and weirdest undertakings. They’ve tested France’s first guillotines, ridden the NASA Space Shuttle, been crucified in a Parisian laboratory to test the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin, and helped solve the mystery of TWA Flight 800. For every new surgical procedure, from heart transplants to gender reassignment surgery, cadavers have been there alongside surgeons, making history in their quiet way.

**Shan, Darren – “Demonata” Series, starting with Lord Loss:** This is not great literature, but they sure are fun! Fans of Cirque du Freak and horror movies will love these fast-paced, somewhat gruesome stories of demons and the people who protect us from them.

**Wild, Margaret – Jinx:** “Do not get to know me. Do not ask me out. Do not love me. Be warned! I am Jinx.” Jinx doesn’t start out as Jinx -- at first she’s dull, safe, boring Jen. Jen who always hands her homework in on time, who never stays out late, who can always be counted on. When Jen’s first boyfriend dies, she thinks she’s unlucky... until her second boyfriend dies too. Jen is Jinx now -- a curse, a promise of bad luck, a girl who’s angry and alone, who can’t get close to people anymore. Can Jinx find her way back to being Jen again? A story in verse, Jinx is a quick, compelling read.

Summaries adapted from Amazon.com listings.

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