Suggested Summer Reading

Did you know that reading is a great work-out for your brain? People who read for pleasure improve their memory and concentration, expand their vocabulary and build their self-esteem. Here are some suggested titles to help you keep your brain in tip-top shape this summer.

Grade 9
Overcoming Obstacles

**Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe (224 pages)**
When European missionaries arrive in his African village, Okonkwo is caught between tribal customs and the modern world.

**Durable Goods by Elizabeth Berg (224 pages)**
Coming-of-age story about Katie Nash, a young girl who lives on an army base with her recently widowed father.

**In these Girls Hope is a Muscle by Madeleine Blais (270 pages)**
A girls’ high school basketball team, the Amherst Lady Hurricanes, work together during one fantastic season to achieve their tournament dreams.

**The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay (540 pages)**
In 1939, Peekay is born just as apartheid takes hold of South Africa. The determined boy grows up to fulfill his childhood dreams and embarks on an epic journey, learning that he has the power to transform lives.

**Children of the River by Linda Crew (240 pages)**
Forced to leave her family in Cambodia and flee to the United States with her aunt, Sundara is torn between cultures as she tries to find her place in her new country.

**Walking Across Egypt by Clyde Edgerton (250 pages)**
A forthright senior citizen, Mattie Rigsbee, forms an unlikely friendship with a troubled teen-age boy.

**One Child by Torey Hayden (336 pages)**
An abused child finds the love and acceptance that is missing from her life through the efforts of her dedicated teacher.

**Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse (240 pages)**
Billy Jo, a gifted musician, dreams of leaving her bleak life in the Depression-era Oklahoma Dustbowl to become a professional pianist until a tragic accident changes the course of her life. A novel in verse.

**Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (384 pages)**
Bernard Marx rebels against the confines of his utopian community, World State when he realizes he may be falling in love with a young woman.
Hoop Dreams by Ben Joravsky (320 pages)
Inspiring biography of the lives of two remarkable basketball players, Arthur Agee and William Gates.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon by Stephen King (272 pages)
A story of human survival centered on 9-year-old Trisha, who becomes lost in the Appalachian woods and must battle the forces of nature and her own imagination to find her way home.

Where the Heart Is by Billie Letts (384 pages)
Pregnant and just 17-years-old, Novalee Nation must make a new life for herself when her boyfriend strands her at a Wal-mart during a cross-country trip.

Saving Francesca by Melina Marchetta (256 pages)
Francesca, a 16-year-old girl from Sydney, Australia faces many difficulties when she starts her junior year at a new school and her mother suddenly falls into a deep depression.

1984 by George Orwell (336 pages)
Written in 1948, Orwell’s novel predicts a future totalitarian society controlled by Big Brother. Protagonist, Winston Smith, fights to preserve “the spirit of man.”

When My Name was Keoko by Linda Sue Park (208 pages)
A WWII story of Kim Sun-hee, a young Korean girl, who must take a new Japanese name be decree of the controlling government. She struggles to keep her identity and her dignity during turbulent times for her country.

Winterdance by Gary Paulsen (272 pages)
The popular author of young adult novels chronicles his experiences while running the famous 1,100-mile long dogsled race, the Iditarod.

The Chosen by Chaim Potok (304 pages)
Two Jewish boys growing up in Brooklyn face religious and generational issues as they struggle to discover what their religion means to them.

Rite of Passage by Richard Wright (160 pages)
Under the threat of being taken from his foster family, Johnny runs away to the city streets and joins a gang.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (576 pages)
During World War II, Liesel Meminger lives outside of Munich, Germany with her foster family. She begins her career as a book thief during her journey to her foster home even though she cannot yet read. With the help of her foster father, she learns to read and shares her books with a Jewish refugee hiding in the basement of her home.