

THE PHELPS SCHOOL

Summer Reading List for 11th & 12th grades

While all selections are grade-appropriate, and many are award winners, the maturity level of students can vary widely. Some may contain content, language, or violence that you may deem inappropriate for your son's current maturity level. If you have any question about a particular book, please check with your local library or bookstore.

Murder On the Orient Express (Agatha Christie) On a three-day journey through the snowbound Balkan hills, Hercule Poirot tracks down a murderer among the passengers on the train, with a voice in the night as his only clue.

The Natural (Bernard Malamud) A supremely outstanding baseball player is not supremely outstanding off the field and ends up having a lot of problems because of his stardom and his inability to cope with that.

The Blind Side (Michael Lewis) Here we have an encouraging story of a young black boy who really has nothing in his life but his athletic ability. We have a good family that certainly does not need to exploit the boy. So they did what we all should want to do if our situations allowed, take the boy in and help. But the story is not just about that; it covers the evolution of football, these last thirty to forty years as marquee quarterbacks, or productive west-coast offense systems come into play.

The Name of the Wind (Patrick Rothfuss) This is the riveting first-person narrative of Kvothe, a young man who grows to be one of the most notorious magicians his world has ever seen. From his childhood in a troupe of traveling players, to years spent as a near-feral orphan in a crime-riddled city, to his daringly brazen yet successful bid to enter a legendary school of magic, *The Name of the Wind* is a masterpiece that transports readers into the body and mind of a wizard. See also the 2011 sequel, *The Wise Man's Fear*.

Quiet Power (Susan Cain) Susan Cain sparked a worldwide conversation when she published *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*. With her inspiring book, she permanently changed the way we see introverts and the way introverts see themselves. The original book focused on the workplace, and Susan realized that a version for and about kids was also badly needed. This book is all about kids' world—school, extracurriculars, family life, and friendship. You'll read about actual kids who have tackled the challenges of not being extroverted and who have made a mark in their own quiet way. You'll hear Susan Cain's own story, and you'll be able to make use of the tips at the end of each chapter. There's even a guide at the end of the book for parents and teachers. This insightful, accessible, and empowering book, illustrated with amusing comic-style art, will be eye-opening to extroverts and introverts alike.