

Grade 9 English Summer Reading List

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The following books are a list of summer reading for students entering ninth grade in September. You will need to read at least one book on this list over the summer.

In addition to reading the book, you must complete one of the summer reading writing assignments based on your reading of the book.

Assignments will be collected on the first day of school in September.

Black Like Me - John Howard Griffin

This is the startling, penetrating, firsthand account of a white man who learns what it is like to live as a black man in the South.

Graceling - Kristin Cashore

"This novel takes readers inside the world of Katsa, a warrior-girl in her late teens with one blue eye and one green eye. This gives her haunting beauty, but also marks her as a Graceling. Gracelings are beings with special talents—swimming, storytelling, dancing. Katsa's Grace is considered more useful: her ability to fight is unequalled in the seven kingdoms. Forced to act as a henchman for a manipulative king, Katsa channels her guilt by forming a secret council of like-minded citizens who carry out secret missions to promote justice over cruelty and abuses of power" (Amazon.com Review).

Hoops - Walter Dean Meyers

Seventeen-year old Lonnie Jackson hopes that basketball will be his ticket out of Harlem, until the savage underworld of sports and big money forces him to make a choice.

The Pigman's Legacy - Paul Zindel

In this second round of zany experiences with an old man, John and Lorraine discover that they are in love and discover that they have received a legacy of life, not of death, from the Pigman.

Remember Me - Mary Higgins Clark

A young couple retreats to tranquil Cape Cod to escape from the horrors of their past -only to become trapped in a nightmare beyond their understanding, and out of their control.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry - Mildred Taylor

The vivid story of a black family, whose warm ties to each other and their land give them strength to defy rural Southern racism during the Depression, showing the rich inner rewards of black pride.

Summer of My German Soldier - Bette Greene

This is a poignant, tragic story of a mistreated Jewish girl who befriends an escaped German prisoner of war because he is kind to her.

Things Not Seen - Andrew Clement

"Teens, especially those not in the über-popular set, know all about feeling invisible. But what would happen if you actually did wake up invisible one day? Fifteen-year-old Bobby is faced with this curious predicament in Andrew Clements's compelling novel *Things Not Seen*" (Amazon.com Review).

Treasure Island - Robert Louis Stevenson

This is a classic adventure story of a perilous sea journey, a mutiny led by the infamous Long John Silver and a lethal scramble for buried treasure seen through the eyes of a cabin boy, Jim Hawkins.

Grade 10 English Summer Reading List

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Students entering tenth grade in September will select one of the books from the list below to read over the summer. In addition to reading the book, you must complete one of the summer reading writing assignments based on your reading of the book.

Completed writing assignments will be collected on the first day of school.

The Accident - Todd Strasser

Everyone had been drinking that snowy night when Chris's car plunged into the ravine, Luckily, Matt hadn't gone with them. Now, four of his friends are dead. Only Jason survives. When Matt sets out to uncover the truth about what really happened that night, no one will help him: not the cops, or his girlfriend, or even Jason, Why?

And Then There Were None - Agatha Christie

Ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island by a mysterious host. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts. One by one, they die.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone, 15 and autistic, is the first-person narrator of this murder mystery. Not a traditional murder mystery, this is the story of Christopher's determination to solve the murder of his neighbor's dog Wellington, against the protests of his father and his neighbors.

Death Be Not Proud - John Gunther

Johnny Gunther was 17 when he died of a brain tumor. This deeply moving book is a father's memoir of his brave, intelligent, and spirited son.

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

This story tells of a futuristic society with excessive controls on individual liberty, featuring the banning and burning of books.

Hot Zone - Richard Preston

Here comes Ebola, the killer virus. This is the true story of the world's close call with the dreaded killer that came out of Africa and into Alexandria, Virginia, where it was stopped - for now.

Loves Music, Loves to Dance - Mary Higgins Clark

New York's trendy magazines are a source of danger when a killer enacts a bizarre dance of death, using the personal ads to lure his victims.

The Once and Future King - T.H. White

Considered by many to be “the world’s greatest fantasy classic” This is the epic story of King Arthur, Guinevere, Merlyn and Camelot. With stories of war and wizardry, “it is the fantasy masterpiece by which all others are judged.” (Product description, Amazon.com)

Rise and Walk: The Trial and Triumph of Dennis Byrd - Dennis Byrd and Michael D’Orso
This is a personal account of the New York Jets football player, Dennis Byrd’s struggle to walk again following a spinal injury, The book discusses Byrd’s high school and college successes and follows his pro career until his career ending injury, which results in paralysis. This is an inspirational story of Byrd’s courage and perseverance.

Grade 11 English Summer Reading List
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Students entering eleventh grade in September will select one of the books from the list below to read over the summer. In addition to reading the book, you must complete one of the summer reading writing assignments based on your reading of the book.

If you choose one of the books marked ***, you must use writing topic #5.**

Completed writing assignments will be collected on the first day of school.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath

Poet Sylvia Plath’s autobiographical novel chronicles 19-year old Esther Greenwood’s gradual emergence from a mental breakdown.

The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck

This is the epic chronicle of families forced off their land during the Dustbowl era, focusing on the trials of the Joad family.

Ironman - Chris Crutcher

Bo Brewster is forced to attend group anger management classes. The group helps him understand his lifelong anger at his father and becomes his greatest support in training to be a tri-athlete.

Never Die Easy - Dan Yeager

This is a book with many lessons about life and death. Walter Payton and others tell the story of his life as an NFL champion, his philosophy for living as a winner, and his dealing with his own mortality.

The Pilot’s Wife – Anita Shreve

When her husband dies in a plane crash, a woman tries to find out why it happened.

The Realm of Possibility - David Levithan

“Most readers will find someone they can relate to in this enchanting collection of linked poems that delve deep and go far beyond the original stereotypes. Twenty teenagers-sensitive outsiders, cruel popular girls, body-obsessed jocks, gay teens in the throes of first love-take turns pouring their hearts onto the pages, detailing their loneliness, heartaches, hopes, and joys. All attend the same high school, and as the book progresses their stories slowly weave together” (School Library Journal).

The Red Badge of Courage - Stephen Crane

In this Civil War story, Stephen Crane probes the thoughts and actions of men fighting the destructive forces in nature, in other human beings, and in themselves.

Tomorrow, When the War Began - John Marsden

This is a story of seven young people who have to deal with a sudden change in their world. They exhibit human nobility, compassion and understanding under difficult conditions.

*****A Walk to Remember* - Nicholas Sparks

Landon Carter learns that in spite of his bad behavior he really is a good person who can help others. He learns about love, people's "inner" goodness, death and losing those who are closest to us.

*****Where the Heart Is* - Billie Letts

This is a story that deals with a young woman's struggle to have her baby and raise it alone, developing friendships along the way, experiencing life's triumphs and tragedies.

Grade 12 Summer Reading List

Students entering twelfth grade in September will select one of the books from the list below to read over the summer. In addition to reading the book, you must complete one of the summer reading writing assignments based on your reading of the book.

If you choose one of the books marked ***, you must use writing topic #5.**

Completed writing assignments will be collected on the first day of school.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X - Alex Haley and Malcolm X

This is the life story of an activist whose experiences and intelligence continues to speak to millions on the greatest issue of our day - the ongoing African-American struggle for social and economic equality.

Catch-22 - Joseph Heller

This is a powerful, darkly satirical account of World War II bombing missions.

The Client - John Grisham

Mark Sway is really in the wrong place at the wrong time.

*****The Five People You Meet in Heaven* - Mitch Albom

This book "weaves together three stories, all told about the same man: 83-year-old Eddie. As the novel opens, readers are told that Eddie, unsuspecting, is only minutes away from death as he goes about his typical business at the park....Albom follows Eddie into heaven where the maintenance man sequentially encounters five pivotal figures from his life. Each person has been waiting for him in heaven, and, each life (and death) was woven into Eddie's own in ways he never suspected" (Amazon.com Review).

The Invisible Man - H.G. Wells

This is the highly imaginative tale of scientist capable of making himself invisible, who unleashes a bizarre streak of terror on inhabitants of an English village.

Ophelia - Lisa Klein

“Klein retells *Hamlet*, expanding on the romance between its hero and Ophelia, who narrates this version. Keeping true to the framework of the play, the heroine, now 16, reports the tragic events in the troubled Elsinore castle. When she first speaks to Hamlet, Ophelia is a 10-year-old ragged tomboy tagging along after her brother, Laertes. A year later, Ophelia is accepted into Queen Gertrude’s court (“Becoming a lady, I learned, was not easy”), and she grows into a beautiful, rather outspoken young woman with an interest in herbs. Her quick wit attracts the prince’s attention, and their Shakespearean-style banter will delight readers” (Publisher’s Weekly).

Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

This effervescent tale of rural romance is transformed by Jane Austen's art into a witty, shrewdly observed satire of English country life.

The Tempest - William Shakespeare

This play introduces Shakespeare's romance genre. It contains elements of the supernatural, love, chance encounters and a happy ending. It shows Shakespeare's lighter side.

You Belong to Me - Mary Higgins Clark

Talk-Show psychologist, Dr. Susan Chandler, searches for the person who looks to harm women on cruise ships.