Grade 9 Summer Reading Requirements 2018

The following reading selections present issues and themes that are addressed in the ninth grade curriculum. The required books were selected to help prepare you for next year’s studies. The faculty and administration believe that it is very important for students to continue reading during the summer months. When you return to school, teachers in English classes will assess your knowledge and understanding of the required reading, as well as, provide opportunities for students to discuss the texts.

If you have any questions, contact Ms. Lattari, the 9th grade English team leader, at rlattari@wssd.org

You must complete ONE of the following assignments depending on your course placement. If you are unsure about your placement, please contact your guidance counselor.

**COLLEGE PREP SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**
Students entering College Prep English 9 must choose ONE book from the recommended list.

The attached “Double-Entry Notes” assignment is required for College Prep students.

**HONORS SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**
Students entering Honors English 9 must choose ONE book from the recommended list, AND all students must read Thomas Foster’s *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.

The attached “Response Journal” assignments is required for Honors students.

**RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST** (All students will choose one of these, regardless of course placement)

*Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby: Everyone knows Bone Gap is full of gaps—gaps to trip you up, gaps to slide through so you can disappear forever. So when young, beautiful Roza went missing, the people of Bone Gap weren’t surprised. Finn knows that’s not what happened with Roza. He knows she was kidnapped, ripped from the cornfields by a dangerous man whose face he cannot remember. But the searches turned up nothing, and no one believes him anymore. Not even Sean, who has more reason to find Roza than anyone, and every reason to blame Finn for letting her go. (2015 National Book Award Finalist, 2016 Printz Award Winner)

*Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman: Caden Bosch, a brilliant high school student whose friends begin to notice his odd behavior, is on a galleon that’s headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep. He is designated the ship’s artist in residence to document the journey with images. Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head, split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. He is torn, dealing with schizophrenia... and as fantasy and paranoia take over, his parents have only one choice left. (2015 National Book Award Winner, 2016 Morris Award Winner)

*The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon: It is Natasha’s last day in New York City, her home for 10 years. Her family, living as undocumented immigrants in a small Brooklyn apartment, is being deported to Jamaica after her father’s arrest. Natasha scours the city for a chance to stay in the United States legally, seeking the normal teen existence of her peers. Meanwhile, poetic Daniel travels to his interview at Yale under great pressure to get in since his parents, South Korean immigrants, push him to become a doctor. Events conspire to bring the two together, but what will fate have in store? (2017 Printz Honor Book, National Book Award Finalist)

*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas: Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: her poor neighborhood and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between them shatters when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her unarmed childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. What everyone wants to know is what really went down that night? The only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. And endanger her life. (2017 Coretta Scott King Honor Book, Printz Honor Book, Morris Award Winner, National Book Award Longlist)
OTHER RECOMMENDED (OPTIONAL) READINGS FOR PLEASURE READING

Reading for pleasure is a habit that has tremendous payoffs. Good readers generally have a better vocabulary, a better knowledge base, and better writing skills than those who rarely read for pleasure. The faculty and administration urge you to make time to read books that you enjoy. For your consideration, here are some recommendations for pleasure reading:

**1984** (by George Orwell)
This is one of the most influential novels of the 20th century. Published in 1949, it presents an imaginary future where a totalitarian state controls every aspect of life, even people’s thoughts. The book’s hero, Winston Smith, is a minor party public servant in one of these states. His longing for truth and decency leads him to secretly rebel against the government.

**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** (by Sherman Alexie)
Arnold Spirit makes the choice to leave his reservation school and transfer to the upscale public high school 22 miles away. He recounts his struggles with disarming humor, evidenced in his words and supplementary cartoons. Although some sporadic crude humor appears, it is more than counterbalanced by this novel’s positive messages.

**Amazing Fantastic Incredible: A Marvelous Memoir** (by Stan Lee, Peter David and Colleen Doran)
The man behind the Marvel Universe tells the story of his life, from childhood poverty to creating superheroes, in this comic-book-style memoir.

**Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe** (by Benjamin Alire Sáenz)
Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

**Where Things Come Back** (by John Corey Whaley)
Witty, sardonic Cullen Witter agonizes over the disappearance of his beloved brother, Gabriel, while everyone else in his stiflingly dull Arkansas town thrills to the apparent return of a long-extinct woodpecker. Kidnapping, bromance, arcane religious texts, and ornithology collide in this ground-breaking coming-of-age tale.

**One Shot at Forever** (by Chris Ballard)
This remarkable story follows the Macon Ironmen, a team of misfits with a hippie coach, through a record setting baseball season. In this gripping, cinematic narrative, *Sports Illustrated* writer Chris Ballard tells the story that is a testament to the power of high school sports to shape the lives of those who play them.

**The Yellow Birds** (by Kevin Powell)
Iraq War veteran Private Bartle must come to terms with his war experiences and what really happened to fellow soldier and friend Private Murphy. This is a moving and insightful novel about costs of war—its effects on the men and women who take part in it and the mothers and families left at home.
Double-Entry Notes
REQUIRED FOR INCOMING COLLEGE PREP STUDENTS

**Directions:** While reading your summer reading books, it will benefit you to take detailed notes that you may review prior to the start of the school year. These notes will help you keep track of important events in the plot, characters, themes, symbols, and big ideas as you work your way through the text. **This assignment is required** and should be brought to class with you beginning with the first full day of school. You will take double-entry notes in the format provided below. Use the questions given to help guide your notetaking. The first page is given to you as a template and guide. Print out as many of the template page as you need to accommodate your notes.

### IMPORTANT PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT

On this side, keep track of important passages. You may copy a passage from your book (if it’s short) or copy the beginning of a longer passage. Be sure to keep track of the page numbers for the passages you mark from the text so that you may find your way back to them easily later.

### YOUR THOUGHTS AND REACTIONS

- Ask a question for clarification
- React to the passage
- Comment on symbols and their deeper meaning
- Explain why the passage is significant
- Explain what the passage reveals about a character
- Explain the connection between a passage and theme(s) emerging in the text as you read

These are not the only possibilities—the important part is that you react to the text and interact with it as much as possible.

**EXAMPLE:**

“If you stumble about believability, what are you living for? Love is hard to believe, ask any lover. Life is hard to believe, ask any scientist. God is hard to believe, ask any believer. What is your problem with hard to believe?” (Martel 182).

This passage reveals that Pi believes that science and faith in God are similar in that they are “hard to believe.” During the whole book, he spends time developing this idea and discussing the intersection between faith and reason. For him, they’re the same.
Response Journal
REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HONORS ENGLISH 9

This assignment is intended to give your new 9th grade teacher a sense of your analytical skills and to provide you with useful notes to enhance your study of literature throughout the course. Chapters from How to Read Literature Like a Professor will provide background and a framework for studying the core texts of the course: Homer’s Odyssey, Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men, Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, and Golding’s Lord of the Flies.

A careful reading of How to Read Literature Like a Professor will enable you to see patterns in the techniques employed within the core texts and will enable you to begin your literary analysis journey in 9th grade, and your 9th grade teacher will refer to this book throughout the course.

This assignment is required and should be brought to class with you PRINTED OUT beginning with the first full day of school.

You must complete one CHAPTER RESPONSE for each required chapter which will ask you to synthesize the main argument of that chapter with reflections from your CHOICE summer reading text.

What goes in each response?

☑ In one sentence, summarize the main idea of the chapter. It should be in your own words.
☑ Summarize the main supporting points of the chapter in 2-3 sentences.
☑ What is the most interesting or powerful part of the chapter, and why? 2-3 sentences
☑ How does this impact your reading of your choice novel? What did you learn from the chapter that you can apply to your study of literature? 4-5 sentences ← This is the most important part of your response.

Note: Please type your responses, and compile them into one document with the proper MLA heading. Your teacher may require you to submit your document to TurnItIn.com, so be sure to hold on to the file.

Required Chapters - It is strongly recommended to read these in order!

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<td>When in Doubt, it’s from Shakespeare</td>
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<td>It’s More than Just Rain or Snow</td>
<td>Never Stand Next to the Hero</td>
<td>Is That a Symbol?</td>
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<td>Marked for Greatness</td>
<td>Don’t Read with your Eyes</td>
<td>Is He Serious? And other Ironies</td>
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ENRICHMENT OPTION: See Foster’s “Reading List” toward the end of the text. Choose one (or more) of the texts offered, read it, and consider connections with HTRLLAP.