Grade 9 Summer Reading Requirements 2019

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 Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*.

The attached “Double-entry Notes” assignment is required for Honors students for their book choice from the recommended list. *Fahrenheit 451* will be assessed during the first weeks of school. Students are encouraged but not required to take notes on the required text.
RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST (All students will choose one of these, regardless of course placement)

A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi. It’s 2002, a year after 9/11. It’s an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who’s tired of being stereotyped. Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She’s tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments—even the physical violence—she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. So she’s built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. But then she meets Ocean James. He’s the first person in forever who really seems to want to get to know Shirin. It terrifies her—they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds—and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she’s not sure she’ll ever be able to let it down.

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 57 Bus by Dashka Slater: One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both of their lives forever. If it weren’t for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

I Have the Right To by Chessy Prout: In 2014, Chessy Prout was a freshman at St. Paul’s School, a prestigious boarding school in New Hampshire, when a senior boy sexually assaulted her as part of a ritualized game of conquest. Chessy bravely reported her assault to the police and testified against her attacker in court. Then, in the face of unexpected backlash from her once-trusted school community, she shed her anonymity to help other survivors find their voice. This memoir is more than an account of a horrific event. It takes a magnifying glass to the institutions that turn a blind eye to such behavior and a society that blames victims rather than perpetrators. Chessy’s story offers real, powerful solutions to upend rape culture as we know it today. Prepare to be inspired by this remarkable young woman and her story of survival, advocacy, and hope in the face of unspeakable trauma.
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 ALL INCOMING 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.
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