

9th Graders' Suggested Summer Reading List



Bray, Libba. *A Great and Terrible Beauty*. Delacorte, 2003. After her mother dies mysteriously in 1895 India, Gemma is sent to a finishing school in England where she becomes aware of her magical powers.

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*. Jim Burden recount tales of his Nebraska upbringing in the late 1800s. His memories are peopled with the immigrants who settled the Nebraska prairie and the story of Bohemian Antonia Shimerda, whose perseverance and ultimate triumph are at the heart of the novel.

Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None*. The story of ten strangers lured to an island from which there is no escape.

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*. Love and self-sacrifice prove to be the virtues of a true hero in this story during the violent upheaval of the French Revolution.

Gaines, Ernest J. *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. A fictionalized autobiography of a 110-year-old woman. She tells the story of her life from childhood as a slave during the Civil War to the early years of the civil rights movement of the 1960's. Jane Pittman endures tragedy and loss but never loses hope.

Gibson, William. *The Miracle Worker*. The true story of Annie Sullivan's struggle to release Helen Keller from the prison of her dark and silent world. Convinced that she can give Helen the gift of language, Annie applies herself to her task with fanatical dedication.

Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass*. Roaring Brook Press, 2002. A group of cool high school boys transform Simon Glass, the school nerd, into one of the most popular boys in school. Then they kill him. This story sends a powerful message about shouldering responsibility for one's actions.

Grisham, John. *A Painted House*. Doubleday, 2001. A young country boy experiences dramatic events among clashing migratory workers of different cultures during the 1952 Arkansas cotton harvest.

Guy, Rosa. *The Friends*. When Phyllisia Cathy arrives in New York City from her West Indian homeland, she is ridiculed and reviled by her classmates. As she deals with the death of her mother, Phyllisia learns the meaning and the responsibilities of a real friendship.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. Random House, 2003.

An autistic boy keeps a diary of his efforts to solve the mystery of who killed his neighbor's dog. This funny, touching novel gives an eerie impression of autistic thought processes.

Hillerman, Tony. *The Blessing Way*. Navajo detective Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn follows the trail of a killer who some claim is not human.

Korman, Gordon. *Son of the Mob*. Hyperion, 2002. Strait-laced Vince, son of a Mafia family, falls for the daughter of the FBI agent who is bugging his house.

Lawson, Mary. *Crow Lake: A Novel*. Dell, 2002. Kate Morrison, on a return visit to the small Ontario farming community where she grew up, recalls the sudden death of her parents in a car accident when she was just seven years old and the continuing impact of the tragedy on her and her family.

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MacCullough, Carolyn. *Stealing Henry*. Roaring Brook, 2005. Seventeen-year-old Savannah “brains” her alcoholic stepfather with a frying pan and leaves home with her eight-year-old half brother, Henry. Their journey to their mother’s hometown in Maine mirrors the earlier nomadic life Savannah experienced with her mother.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. Scholastic, 1988. Young American soldiers are soon disillusioned and challenged by the realities of the war in Vietnam. Coretta Scott King Award

Myers, Walter Dean. *The Greatest: Muhammad Ali*. Scholastic Press, 2000. The main character is Muhammad Ali, formerly Cassius Clay, arguably the greatest heavyweight boxing champion in history, defender of religious freedom, civil rights activist, and celebrity.

Orwell, George. *1984*. A chilling vision of a future totalitarian society, a world where the government can control individual thought and even reality itself.

Poe, Edgar Allen. Select any or all of the following stories: **"The Black Cat"** (1845) Horror story about a cat. **"The Cask of Amontillado"** (1846) A story of revenge. **"A Descent Into The Maelström"** (1845) Man vs. Nature, Adventure Story. **"Eleonora"** (1850) A love story. **"The Fall of the House of Usher"** (1839) An old house and its secrets. **"Never Bet the Devil Your Head"** (1850) A comedy with a moral. **"The Oval Portrait"** (1850) A tragic love story. **"The Pit and the Pendulum"** (1850) A torture chamber.

Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen*. Danny Saunders and Reuven Malter live blocks apart in Brooklyn, but belong to different worlds. Danny’s father is a stern Hasidic rabbi and Reuven’s father embraces modern Jewish ways. The two boys, both gifted students, become best friends.

Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Love and magic rule the world of the fanciful comedy. The fair maiden Hermia loves Lysander, but her father insists that Demetrius be her mate. To escape the forced marriage, Hermia and Lysander run away only to find themselves in the kingdom of fairies, where love potions and magical transformations are the order of the night.

Vonnegut, Kurt Jr. *Slaughterhouse Five*. American prisoner of war Billy Pilgrim travels through time on a search for life’s meaning after witnessing the firebombing of Dresden.

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*. First published in 1940. A young African American man is trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side finding release only in acts of violence.

Zevin, Gabrielle. *Elsewhere*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. When fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi, she ends up in “Elsewhere,” a place where you grow younger year by year, meet lost relatives, enjoy your service-oriented vocation, and are eventually reborn on earth. ALA Notable Book, 2006