

9th Grade Summer Reading

Dear Incoming 9th graders,

Your work in your English class next year will center around the concept of morality and how we determine right and wrong. Over the summer, please select a book from the list below to read and think critically about how morality is explored.

You should choose a book that appeals to you. If you find one that you try and it doesn't work out, feel free to select a different title from the list. Ultimately, we would like you to come to 9th grade in August having read and thought about how morality plays into your chosen title from the list.

Within the first few weeks of school, you can expect to be asked to complete an on-demand writing assessment centered around your book and to create a more creative expression of your analysis of the book.

While this is a required reading, we hope that you will choose purposefully and enjoy your reading experience. We look forward to seeing you at the start of the school year!

Sincerely,

The 9th Grade English Teachers

Parents: The following texts have been selected to help students explore the concept of right and wrong and possibly a context different from the one they have personally experienced. These books are intended for high school age students and therefore may contain mature content including but not limited to, language, violence and sexual content. Please help your son/daughter choose the book that is best for him/her and feel free to preview any of the texts. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your English teacher.

* IL and BL = Interest Level and Book Level - there is an overview of each at the end of the list

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

by Ransom Riggs

IL - UG BL - 5.7

Fiction

When sixteen-year-old Jacob discovers an abandoned orphanage, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive. The plot contains mild profanity, sexual references, and violence.

Change of Heart

by Jodi Picoult

IL - UG BL - 6.2

Fiction

June's life is shattered when Shay Bourne murders her husband and daughter, but when her eleven-year-old daughter, Claire, needs a heart transplant, Bourne decides that his only chance at redemption is to give Claire his heart after he is put to death.

My Losing Season

by Pat Conroy

IL - UG BL - 6.9

NonFiction

The author reflects on his days at a South Carolina military college. He recalls his love of basketball and its value to him as a means of self-expression, and shares experiences that shed new light on his novel THE GREAT SANTINI.

Never Cry Wolf

by Farley Mowat

IL - UG BL - 8.9

NonFiction

Hordes of bloodthirsty wolves are slaughtering the arctic caribou, and the government's Wildlife Service assigns naturalist Farley Mowat to investigate. Mowat is dropped alone onto the frozen tundra, where he begins his mission to live among the howling wolf packs and study their ways. As Mowat comes closer to the wolf world, he comes to fear with them on onslaught of bounty hunters and government exterminators out to erase the noble wolf community from the Arctic.

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban
by Malala Yousafzai

IL - UG BL - 7.1

NonFiction

Malala Yousafzai describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

Uglies

by Scott Westerfeld

IL - MG+ BL - 5.2

Fiction

In Tally's world, reaching 16 brings an operation that turns you from ugly to pretty and Tally's almost there, but when her friend runs away, Tally learns about a new side of pretty world and must choose between betrayal and never turning pretty.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Unabridged)

by Mark Twain

IL - MG+ BL - 6.6

Fiction

Huck Finn, the son of the town drunk, and Jim, an escaped slave, make a break for freedom down the vast Mississippi River on a raft. Huck struggles not only with the challenges of his strenuous journey, but also with the 19th century social climate and the role it forces on him regarding Jim. Throughout the story, Huck is in moral conflict with the received values of the society in which he lives, and while he is unable to consciously refute those values even in his thoughts, he makes a moral choice based on his own valuation of Jim's friendship and human worth, a decision in direct opposition to the things he has been taught.

The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak

IL - UG BL - 5.1

Fiction

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Deadline

By Chris Crutcher

IL - UG BL - 5.1

Fiction

When Ben Wolf learns his senior year of high school will be his last year, period, he is determined to go out in a blaze of glory. That means not letting anyone know about his diagnosis. It means trying out for the football team. It means giving his close-minded civics teacher a daily migraine. It means going for the amazingly perfect, fascinating Dallas Suzuki. But living with a secret isn't easy . . . What will Ben do when he realizes he isn't the only person who's keeping one?

Description from Accelerated Reader: a subscription service we use to help facilitate reading records, track comprehension and progress, etc...

What is Interest Level (IL)?

Interest level is based on a book's content including theme, characterization, and plot. The interest level attached to the book indicates age group appropriateness. Interest level designations reflect the judgment of the book's publisher and the professionals at Renaissance Learning. We group content appropriateness into these categories: LG = Lower Grades (K-3); MG = Middle Grades (4-8); MG+ = Upper Middle Grades (6 and up); and UG = Upper Grades (9-12). Most MG+ books are marketed as YA (Young Adult) for Interest Level. However, the final decision as to whether the content of a specific book is appropriate for a particular student is the responsibility of school librarians, teachers, and parents.

What is ATOS Book Level (BL)?

ATOS Book Levels are reported using the ATOS readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, a book level of 4.5 means the text could likely be read independently by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth grader during the fifth month of school. (Of course the content may or may not be appropriate for a fourth grader which is why we also use Interest Levels.)

English 9

Name:

Summer Reading Notes/Organizer

As stated on your summer reading handout, you will be allowed to use notes on the writing assessment for your summer reading book that will occur when you get back to school in the fall. To best prepare for that, you should take time to fill in notes below. Your notes should be as detailed and specific as possible!

Title of book & author	
Setting	
Major characters (with specific descriptions given for each one)	

<p>Plot Summary (be as detailed as possible, only adding in major plot points and/or ones that pertain to your chosen question)</p>	
<p>How is the Essential Question addressed?</p> <p>How do we develop our sense of right and wrong? (think about concepts such as morality, justice, fairness, and equality)</p>	