

# Summer Reading

9TH GRADE  
SUMMER  
READING

## CHECK LIST

- Choose one book to read
- Get a small notebook to use for journal entries and/or notes
- Set up a reading schedule and timeline
- Read the book and take notes on the book
- Review the book, think about what questions you might be asked, add information to your notes
- Place notes in a safe place, bring notes to school on the day of the assessment

**THE SUMMER READING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR TOWN LIBRARY.**



### Town Libraries

Gilford	524-6042
Gilmanton	364-2400

## FRESHMEN!

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. As you read, think critically about how morality is explored in the text.

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. ***If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bishop at [jbishop@sau73.org](mailto:jbishop@sau73.org).***

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER READING A GOOD BOOK!**

## Parents,

All of the options on the following book list address the essential question of morality. Each book provides students engaging opportunities to think more about right and wrong and to examine elements of the universal human experience. In your student's selection process, please be aware that the literature may contain mature content including but not limited to, violence, language, and/or sexual content. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the English team leader, Jessi Bishop. She can be reached via email ([jbishop@sau73.org](mailto:jbishop@sau73.org)) and phone (603-524-7135).

### Please select one of the following books:

- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children
- My Sister's Keeper
- I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban
- Uglies
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Unabridged)
- The Book Thief
- Never Cry Wolf
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- Fallen Angels
- Gone Ten Miles Past Normal



Go to the GHS website ([ghs.sau73.org](http://ghs.sau73.org)) for book descriptions.

## Tips for Reading Actively

1. **Mark or Highlight** - Use a highlighter or a pen to mark important words, phrases, and sentences. If you can't mark in a book, write on sticky notes and attach them on the page.
2. **Ask questions** - Ask the questions that occur to you as you read. This can help you think more critically about a text.
3. **Clarify** - A lot happens when you read. You are taking in information and responding to it at the same time. Keep track of your reading by making notes that clarify ideas and details.
4. **React and Connect** - Listen to your own thoughts and feelings as you read. Think about how the writing makes you feel. Create connections in one of three ways: text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world.
5. **Visualize** - Visualize the people, places, and action an author describes. Visualizing helps you "see" and remember the author's most important ideas. Make quick sketches in your journal.
6. **Predict** - Ask yourself, "How will things turn out? What will happen next?" Write your predictions as you work your way through a text.

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## IL = Interest Level and BL = Book Level

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### **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children**

**by Ransom Riggs**

**IL - UG BL - 5.7**

#### **Fiction**

A mysterious island.

An abandoned orphanage.

A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow, impossible though it seems, they may still be alive.

### **My Sister's Keeper**

**by Jodi Picoult**

**IL - UG BL - 5.3**

#### **Fiction**

Jodi Picoult tells the story of a girl who decides to sue her parents for the rights to her own body and explores what it means to be a good person. *My Sister's Keeper* examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life, even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are, if that quest makes you like yourself less?

# **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**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. *I AM MALALA* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

## **Uglies**

**by Scott Westerfeld**

**IL - MG+ BL - 5.2**

## **Fiction**

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license—for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you in a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world—and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. The choice Tally makes changes her world forever.

## **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.

## **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 along with them an onslaught of bounty hunters and government exterminators out to erase the noble wolf community from the Arctic.

## **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**

**by Maya Angelou**

**IL - UG BL - 6.7 Nonfiction**

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local “powhitetrash.” At eight years old and back at her mother’s side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors (“I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare”) will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned

## **Fallen Angels**

**by Walter Dean Myers**

**IL – UG BL – 4.2 Fiction**

A coming-of-age tale for young adults set in the trenches of the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, this is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service when his dream of attending college falls through. Sent to the front lines, Perry and his platoon come face-to-face with the Vietcong and the real horror of warfare. But violence and death aren't the only hardships. As Perry struggles to find virtue in himself and his comrades, he questions why black troops are given the most dangerous assignments, and why the U.S. is even there at all.

## **Gone**

**By Michael Grant**

**IL – UG BL – 4.3 Fiction**

In the blink of an eye, everyone disappears. Gone. Except for the young. There are teens, but not one single adult. Just as suddenly, there are no phones, no internet, no television. No way to get help. And no way to figure out what's happened. Hunger threatens. Bullies rule. A sinister creature lurks. Animals are mutating. And the teens themselves are changing, developing new talents—unimaginable, dangerous, deadly powers—that grow stronger by the day. It's a terrifying new world. Sides are being chosen, a fight is shaping up. Townies against rich kids. Bullies against the weak. Powerful against powerless. And time is running out: on your birthday, you disappear just like everyone else. . . .

## **Ten Miles Past Normal**

**By Frances O’Roark Dowell**

**IL – MG+ BL – 5.8 Fiction**

Janie Gorman is smart and creative and a little bit funky...but what she really wants to be is normal. Because living on an isolated farm with her modern-hippy parents is decidedly not normal, no matter how delicious the goat cheese. High school gives Janie the chance to prove to her suburban peers that she’s just like them, but before long she realizes normal is completely overrated, and pretty dull. If she’s going to learn how to live large (and forget the haters), Janie will have to give up the quest and make room in her life for things from the fringe—like jam band, righteous chocolate, small acts of great bravery, and a boy named Monster. *Ten Miles Past Normal* is a quirky road map for life—and also a reminder that detours are not about missing out, but about finding a new way home.

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