

Ninth-Grade Summer Reading List 2009

REQUIRED READING

Students will read two books this summer, one book specified by English teachers and one which may be chosen from the list provided. Students must take notes on both books, as instructed.

A. For English class: The following memoir, two poems, and three short writing assignments are required summer reading and writing for entering ninth graders.

Maclean, Norman, *A River Runs Through It*

Write one page in response to one of the following topics:

1. In many books, things are often left unsaid. Write a letter from one character to another in which the writer reveals or confesses something that in the book is left unsaid.
2. Choose a scene you consider to be a turning point in the novel and write about the elements of the scene that you consider significant.

The two poems: both of these poems are available online or in local libraries or bookstores.

Frost, Robert, "Birches"

Bishop, Elizabeth, "The Fish"

3. For each poem, choose a line or an image you consider to be significant and write one paragraph discussing its significance.

You will be expected to turn in your notes to the English department head at registration. Please bring *A River Runs Through It* to the first English class meeting. If you have questions regarding English reading, call Meg Donnelly at 413-498-2001.

B. For the opening day of school: Read one book from the following list of titles (teachers who recommended them are in parentheses, along with annotations if supplied). On one page, write up answers to the following questions, and be prepared to bring the notes to class and deliver these answers in an oral report on the first day of school:

1. Why did you choose this book?
2. What did you like or dislike about the book?
3. Select one passage from the book that you think is particularly well written and representative of what readers can expect from the book.

To learn more about the books on this list, visit nmhschool.org/academics.

From **students**:

Snow, Orhan Pamuk (Charles Milliken '11)

Kira Kira, Cynthia Kadohata (Erika Donohoe '10)

Anthem, Ayn Rand (Priscilla Hume '10)

The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd (Priscilla Hume '10)

Lord of the Flies, William Golding

Johnny Got His Gun, Dalton Trumbo

Death by Black Hole, Neil deGrasse Tyson

Slaughterhouse Five, Kurt Vonnegut

A Boy's Own Story, Edmund White

Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters, Mark Dunn

From the **history and social sciences** department:

Black Like Me, John Howard Griffin
A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini
Endurance, Alfred Lansing

From the **library** staff:

The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Brian Selznick
Outliers: The Story of Success, Malcolm Gladwell

From the **mathematics** department:

1491, Charles Mann
Outliers, Malcolm Gladwell
Neuromancer, William Gibson
Ender's Game, Orson Scott Card
Journey through Genius: The Great Theorems of Mathematics, William Dunham
Einstein's Dreams, Alan Lightman (Mark Yates)
Waiting for Teddy Williams, Howard Frank Mosher (Dick Peller)
Blood Done Sign My Name, Timothy B. Tyson (Dick Peller)
Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions, Edwin A. Abbott,

From the **performing arts** department:

Bound for Glory: Autobiography of Woody Guthrie, Woody Guthrie
Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry

From the **physical education and athletics** department:

The Game, Ken Dryden
A River Runs Through It, Norman Maclean
Seabiscuit, Laura Hillenbrand

From the **religious studies** department:

Maus: A Survivor's Tale, Art Spiegelman
Barabbas, Par Lagerkvist
Haroun and the Sea of Stories, Salman Rushdie

From the **science** department:

A Brief History of Time, Stephen Hawking (Tabatha Lotze)
A Short History of Nearly Everything, Bill Bryson
The Starship and the Canoe, Kenneth Brower (Becca Leslie)
The Andromeda Strain, Michael Crichton
The Hot Zone, Richard Preston
Dinosaur in a Haystack, Stephen J. Gould
Ishmael, Daniel Quinn
Never Cry Wolf, Farley Mowat

From the **visual arts** department:

Girl with a Pearl Earring, Tracy Chevalier
The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison
Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, Dai Sijie and Ina Rilke

From the **world languages** department:

Chinese

Beginning Level

Mandarin Chinese Phrase Book
The Legend of White Snake, Zhao Qingge (ENG-CHI version)

The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan

Intermediate and Advanced Level

Selected Readings of Contemporary Chinese Short Stories, Liu Lianli

Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, Zhao Qingge
The Dragon Lover and Other Chinese Proverbs, Yong-sheng Xuan

French

Beginning Level

English translation:

Childhood (Antan d'Enfance), Patrick Chamoiseau (Martinique)

Intermediate Level

Le Petit Prince, Antoine de St-Exupéry
Voltaïques, Short stories, Ousmane Sembene (Senegal)

Latin

Bull from the Sea, Mary Renault
Greek Mythology, Edith Hamilton
I, Claudius, Robert Graves
Firebrand, Marion Zimmer Bradley

Spanish

Cool Salsa—Bilingual Poems

Red Hot Salsa—Bilingual Poems

Intermediate Level

El Libro de los Abrazos, Eduardo Galeano
Poemas y Adivinanzas, Gloria Fuertes

If you have any questions regarding the opening day reading assignment, please call John Adams at 413-498-5072.