



2021 Summer Reading

English 9 Honors (ENG 102)

All incoming English 9 Honors students are required to read three books in preparation for the school year. We will refer back to these texts throughout the year, and summer reading is the first assessment of the semester.

These summer reading texts for both English 9 courses have been hand-selected because they are coming-of-age stories and are high-interest for this age group. Moreover, these texts connect with the themes we will discuss in English this year. The list includes a variety of genres to engage diverse interests, and range from historical fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, and mystery. Reading is meant to be enjoyable and engaging; therefore, I have worked with current and past ninth grade students to develop this list of texts that students have found relevant and that resonate with the 21st century teenage reader. My sincere hope is that you will connect with these texts on a personal level, whether this is through identifying with a character's adversity, seeing the world through the eyes of another, or understanding your own experiences in a new way.

Required:

- ***Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson**
- ***The Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi**

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson is a YA (young-adult) novel about Jade, a teenage artist who strives to transcend her circumstances and navigate the rocky waters of adolescence while remaining true to her authentic self.

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi is a YA (young-adult) fantasy novel about two young women from very different circumstances, Zelié, whose family has suffered greatly under a corrupt and oppressive king, and Amari, the princess who flees after she witnesses her father's cruelty firsthand. The two characters meet and eventually unite to fight against injustice. This inspiring tale of an unlikely friendship has everything: magic, courage, mystery, action, and even romance.

Individual Choice

Pick at least ONE additional text from the list below.

Parents are encouraged to research individual choice texts, as the content varies. Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.com) is an excellent resource when selecting texts that are appropriate for your child to read based on your family's individual media guidelines. Parents are also encouraged to read the texts in tandem with their child, as this creates the opportunity for dialogue about what they are reading and how they are responding to the texts.

Historical Fiction

Dreamland Burning by Jennifer Latham

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

Cleopatra's Daughter by Michelle Moran

Nonfiction

The Radium Girls by Kate Moore

The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix (graphic novel)

Contemporary Fiction

Turtles All the Way Down by John Green

Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu

One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus

Dumplin' by Julie Murphy

Fantasy

The Belles by Dhonielle Clayton

The Hazelwood by Melissa Albert

How to complete Summer Reading:

1. Approach this task with a growth mindset! It doesn't matter if you love reading, or if you find reading challenging, you can complete this assignment. It is OK if you do not understand everything in these texts. Sit back and enjoy the process of entering into a different perspective or exploring a new world. This is what makes reading fun! And remember, if you find yourself grumbling about summer reading, remember that you are a student at Villa Duchesne, a challenging, college-preparatory school. You are preparing for college work even during the summer before your first year in high school. This is an opportunity to embody the qualities of a Villa graduate.
2. Support your local library; this is an affordable alternative to purchasing summer reading books. You will not need to bring a hardcopy of the book to class, so borrowing from the library is encouraged.
3. Many libraries offer free audio versions of texts, so if you are an auditory reader, you may find listening along while reading might improve your comprehension. Audible is also a good resource for audiobooks, but this service costs additional money.
4. Annotation is *not required* for summer reading (please refrain from writing in library books!). **But you should take notes about what you read on notebook paper - handwrite your notes unless you already have an approved accommodation for computer use.** Your notes can include plot summary, observations about characters, questions, and connections. Note-taking is an excellent way to remember what you read and will prepare you for writing a short response about each text on the first day of class. **Bring your notes to class on the first day of school - I will collect these with your written response as a record of your observations. Label your notes with the title of the book and author.**