



May 2021

Dear ninth grade students (and parents),

We are so excited to teach you (your children) this fall! To prepare for an exciting and productive school year in English, over the summer, each of you will be required to read one book. When we return in the fall, there will be a quiz and a writing assignment over your chosen novel. Notes are recommended, but not required, to prepare for these assessments.

You have the choice of reading The Book Thief by Markus Zusak or The Maze Runner by James Dashner. You only have to read one novel but are free to read both! Below is a summary of each novel.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Tia Woods (TWoods@DenverDJS.org). Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ms. Woods".

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. . . . Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel 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 before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

The Maze Runner James Dashner

If you ain't scared, you ain't human.

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone.

Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.

Everything is going to change.

Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying.

Remember. Survive. Run.