

Suggested summer reading for students entering the 9th grade

Adams, Douglas. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

Anaya, Rudolfo. *Bless Me Ultima*. Six-year-old Antonio embarks upon a spiritual journey under the watchful guidance of Ultima, a healing woman, that leads him to question his faith and beliefs in family, religion, and other aspects of his Chicano culture.

Anderson, Laurie. *Fever 1793*. Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.

Bechard, Margaret. *Hanging On To Max*. When his girlfriend decides to give their baby away, seventeen-year-old Sam is determined to keep him and raise him alone. He struggles to juggle his responsibilities as a parent and student.

Cormier, Robert. *The Rag and Bone Shop : a Novel*. Using psychological tools, a police interrogator leads an innocent boy to admit to murder. For those who like legal/psychological thrillers, suspense, and murder mysteries. It ends with a twist.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*. Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race. First book in the series.

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. Esperanza Cordero, a girl coming of age in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, uses poems and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.

Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage*. During his service in the Civil War a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.

Dessen, Sarah. *The Truth About Forever*. The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.

Draper, Sharon. *Copper Sun*. Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Fast, Howard. *April Morning*. A novel of the Revolutionary War. Adam Cooper signs up on the muster roll of the Lexington Militia on April 19th, 1775, and then lives through the first day of conflict with the British, during which his father is killed.

Feinstein, John. *Last Shot*. After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

Gaines, Ernest J. *A Lesson before Dying*. The story of two black men in a racist southern community. One is a twenty-one-year-old uneducated black field worker wrongfully accused and convicted of the robbery and murder of a white man, and sentenced to death by electrocution. The other is a teacher who is persuaded to work with him to help him understand his value as a person before he dies.

Hernandez, Irene Beltran. *The Secret of Two Brothers*. Beaver returns home from prison to see his barrio with new eyes. After the death of his mother and the absence of his abusive father, Beaver must somehow piece together a life for his brother, Cande, and himself.

Horowitz, Anthony. *Stormbreaker*. After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. First of the Alex Rider series.

Johnson, Angela. *The First Part Last*. Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*. Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily like a mother for ten years, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers and find a safe haven in the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Scout Finch, the young daughter of a local attorney in the Deep South during the 1930s, tells of her father's defense of an African-American man charged with the rape of a white girl.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Street Love*. This story told in free verse is set against a background of street gangs and poverty in Harlem in which seventeen-year-old African American Damien takes a bold step to ensure that he and his new love will not be separated.

Oates, Joyce. *Freaky Green Eyes*. The daughter of a charismatic football star-turned-sportscaster narrates this captivating novel, which bears some resemblance to the O.J. Simpson story. She relates the events of the year leading up to her mother's mysterious disappearance and her own struggle to discover and accept the truth about her parents' relationship.

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. Animals on the farm revolt against their human masters and establish a utopian society, but it evolves into another tyranny headed by some of the animals.

Santiago, Esmeralda. *When I Was Puerto Rican*. Memoirs of the author's childhood and youth in Puerto Rico and New York City, showing trials that immigrants face when they move to the United States, including the many differences in language and culture.

Steinbeck, John. *The Pearl*. A poor Mexican fisherman finds a valuable pearl, but it brings him bad luck and sorrow.

Tolkien: *Lord of the Rings*. This trilogy consists of *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*. The story of how the dark power of Sauron is destroyed.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Behind You*. After fifteen-year-old Jeremiah is mistakenly shot by the police, his loved ones struggle to cope with his loss, unaware that he is watching over them.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *After Tupac and D Foster*. The day D Foster, an eleven-year-old who has seen lots of foster homes, enters the lives of Neeka and her best friend, the world opens up for them. D comes from a world vastly different from their safe Queens neighborhood, and through her, the girls see another side of life that includes loss, foster families, and an amount of freedom that makes the girls envious. The three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.