Hello, Rising 9th Graders!

Your ninth-grade English teachers are very much looking forward to meeting you this coming fall. Until then, we wanted to provide you with an opportunity to kickstart your engagement with literature through a bit of summer reading. First things first: pick and read one of the books from the attached list.

But how should you pick a book?

- **Choose books you find appealing.** There is no greater misery than plowing through a book you don’t like.
- **Give it a chance.** Read at least a quarter of the book before you decide it’s not for you. If after a quarter you’re just not into it or it feels too tough to understand, you can abandon it!
- **Annotate!** Take super short notes on the things you notice, on the connections to yourself or to other things you’ve experienced, or on things that resonate with you emotionally.
- **Think about mirrors and windows.** Books are both mirrors and windows. Mirrors are what we can see our reflection in and be reminded that our own lives matter. Windows give us a glimpse into someone else’s existence. Perhaps push yourself a little bit to read both a mirror and window.
- **Read GoodReads.com!** Check out book suggestions from people your age.

You will have an opportunity to share insights from your summer reading with your classmates during the first week of school. Once again, we are excited to meet you and to hear about what literature you explored!

—The Maret Ninth Grade English Team
**Summer Reading Options**

*Love, Hate & Other Filters by Samira Ahmed*: Maya is caught between her parents’ world of college and marrying an Indian, Muslim boy and her dream of film school when a terrorist attack changes everything.

*In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez*: A fictionalized account of the life of four sisters in the Dominican Republic who were assassinated for their part in a plot to overthrow the Trujillo dictatorship.

*For Today I Am A Boy by Kim Fu*: At birth, Peter Huang is the exalted only son in a sea of daughters, the one who will finally fulfill his immigrant father’s dreams of Western masculinity. But for Peter, though his father crowned him “powerful king,” Peter knows otherwise. He knows he is really a girl.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon*: Despite his fear of people, an autistic boy decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor’s dog and uncovers secrets about his mother.

*Exit, Pursued by a Bear by E. K. Johnston*: Hermione returns back to school in her small town after being drugged and raped at cheerleading camp, dealing with the aftermath of rumors and her own lost memory.

*Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea by Sungju Lee*: Lee’s memoir of growing up in North Korea and fending for himself after his parents disappeared when he was 12.

*All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque*: Paul enlists with his classmates in the German army during World War I. After years of torment, he holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principle of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against one another.

*Our House Is On Fire by Greta Thunberg*: When climate activist Greta Thunberg was 11, she stopped eating and speaking. Her parents discovered the heart of Greta’s distress: her imperiled future on a rapidly heating planet. This is the story of how Greta went on strike from school, igniting a worldwide rebellion.

*The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon*: Natasha is on the verge of being deported to Jamaica when she meets Korean-American good son Daniel who believes there is something extraordinary in store for them.

*Starred titles are available for checkout online from Maret as e-books or audiobooks through Sora/OverDrive. [https://soraapp.com/library/mareschooldc](https://soraapp.com/library/mareschooldc)