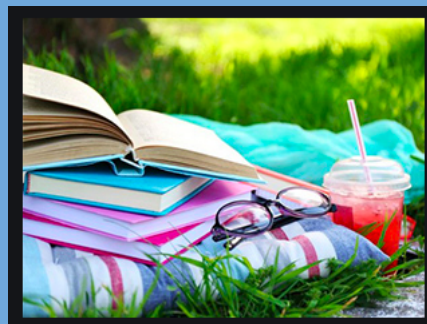


Summer Reading 2024 Incoming Grades 9 & 10



Directions: Read **one text** from **each column**. Click the links to access the digital texts. Read them online or print copies. From the **English Dept. Summer Reading webpage**, make sure to **complete ONE graphic organizer per text**.

Fiction (Select One)	Non-Fiction (Select One)	Poetry (Select One)
"Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push" by Walter Dean Myers	Jason Reynolds's 2018 Lesley University Commencement Speech	"The Border: A Double Sonnet" by Alberto Ríos
"The Medicine Bag" by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve	"Why I Love a Country that Once Betrayed Me" by George Takei	"East 149th Street (Symphony for a Black Girl)" by Teri Ellen Cross Davis
"Sol Painting, Inc." by Meg Medina	"How Autism Freed Me To Be Myself" by Rosie King	"The Journalist" by J. Patrick Lewis

Recommended Titles for Personal Summer Reading--Incoming Grade 9 (optional)	Recommended Titles for Personal Summer Reading--Incoming Grade 10 (optional)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish</i> by Pablo Cartaya (lexile 580) Marcus Vega is six feet tall, 180 pounds, and the owner of a premature mustache. When you look like this and you're only in the eighth grade, you're both a threat and a target. After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mom decides it's time for a change of environment. She takes Marcus and his younger brother to Puerto Rico to spend a week with relatives they don't remember or have never met. But Marcus can't focus knowing that his father--who walked out of their lives ten years ago--is somewhere on the island. <i>Speak</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson (lexile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas (lexile 590) After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died. <i>Dear Martin</i> by Nic Stone (lexile 720) Writing letters to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seventeen-year-old college-bound Justyce McAllister struggles to face the reality of race relations today and how they are shaping him. <i>I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i> by Erika Sanchez (lexile 730) When the sister who delighted their parents by her faithful embrace of Mexican culture dies in a tragic accident, Julia, who longs to go to

690)

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

- ***Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass (lexile 710)**

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

- ***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (lexile 750)**

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

- ***Everything Sad is Untrue: a true story* by Daniel Nayeri (lexile 800)**

At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls "Daniel") stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. To them he is a dark-skinned, hairy-armed boy with a big butt whose lunch smells funny; who makes things up and talks about poop too much. Like Scheherazade in a hostile classroom, Daniel weaves a tale to save his own life: to stake his claim to the truth.

- ***Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Fedelre (lexile 930)**

An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."

- ***Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston (lexile 1040)**

During World War II a community called Manzanar was created in the high mountain desert country of California. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese Americans. Among them was the Wakatsuki family, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings they could carry. Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, who was seven years old when she arrived at Manzanar in 1942, recalls life in the camp through the eyes of the child she was.

college and move into a home of her own, discovers from mutual friends that her sister may not have been as perfect as believed.

- ***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely (lexile 770)**

When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.

- ***This Savage Song* by Victoria Schwab (lexile 830)**

"As the heirs to opposing sides in a warring city, Kate Harker and Augustus Flynn should never have met. A Romeo and Juliet-esque fantasy about the difference between good and evil and the blurry gray area in between".

- ***The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe (lexile 830)**

When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as cliches from "a bad 90s teen movie."

- ***I Was Their American Dream* by Malaka Gharib (graphic memoir)**

At once a coming-of-age story and a reminder of the thousands of immigrants who come to America in search for a better life for themselves and their children. The daughter of parents with unfulfilled dreams themselves, Malaka navigated her childhood chasing her parents' ideals, learning to code-switch between her family's Filipino and Egyptian customs, adapting to white culture to fit in, crushing on skater boys, and trying to understand the tension between holding onto cultural values and trying to be an all-American kid.

- ***Sorta Like a Rockstar* by Matthew Quick (lexile 960)**

Although seventeen-year-old Amber Appleton is homeless, living in a school bus with her unfit mother, she is a relentless optimist who visits the elderly at a nursing home, teaches English to Korean Catholic women with the use of rhythm and blues music, and befriends a solitary Vietnam veteran and his dog, but eventually she experiences one burden more than she can bear and slips into a deep depression.