

**To:** Incoming Students grades 7-12  
**From:** The English Department  
**Re:** Summer Reading  
**Date:** June 2025



Reading is an important part of learning, and the summer is a great time to read for pleasure. **Students in Fundamentals of English classes** are expected to spend some time reading. Below is a list of young adult short stories from which **students must choose and read TWO**. The short stories are digitally available and can be accessed by clicking the links.

Grade 7/8 Short Stories	Grade 9/10 Short Stories	Grade 11/12 Short Stories
<a href="#">The Stolen Party</a> by Liliana Heker	<a href="#">Everyday Use</a> by Alice Walker	<a href="#">San Martin in the Mist</a> by Laura Resau
<a href="#">The Roller Coaster</a> by Shelby Ostergaard	<a href="#">The Necklace</a> by Guy de Maupassant	<a href="#">American History</a> by Judith Ortiz
<a href="#">The Party</a> by Pam Munoz Ryan	<a href="#">Through the Tunnel</a> by Doris Lessing	<a href="#">The Party</a> by Pam Munoz Ryan

Please note, **the novels are optional**. Some of these novels can be found online as ebooks and all are available through the library and bookstores.

Grade 7/8 Novels (optional)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><i>Pashmina</i> (Nidhi Chanani) graphic novel/lexile 240</b> For Pri, her mother's homeland can only exist in her imagination. That is, until she finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase. When she wraps herself in it, she is transported to a place more vivid and colorful than any guidebook or Bollywood film. But is this the real India? And what is that shadow lurking in the background?</li> <li>▪ <b><i>No Fixed Address</i> (Susin Nielsen) lexile 620</b> Twelve-year-old Felix's appearance on a television game show reveals that he and his mother have been homeless for a while, but also restores some of his faith in other people.</li> </ul>

- ***Front Desk* (Kelly Yang) lexile 640**

After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school.

- ***The Music of Dolphins* (Karen Hesse) lexile 560**

A girl raised by dolphins records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world.

### Grade 9/10 Novels (optional)

- ***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* (Jaqueline Kelly) lexile 830**

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older **three** of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.

- ***Look Both Ways: a tale told in ten blocks* (Reynolds) lexile 750**

A whimsical exploration of the role detours play in life follows a group of students who become so engaged in everyday activities while taking 10 different routes home from school that they fail to notice a school bus that has dropped from the sky.

- ***Free Lunch* (Ogle) memoir/lexile 540**

An honest and engrossing account of Ogle's sixth-grade year and his family's experience with poverty and its effect on their relationships. Ogle captures the voice and emotion of his sixth-grade self in this powerful story of trauma and resilience.

### Grade 11/12 Novel (optional)

- ***Long Way Down* (free verse novel by Jason Reynolds)**

Driven by the secrets and vengeance that mark his street culture, 15-year-old Will contemplates over the course of 60 psychologically suspenseful seconds whether or not he is going to murder the person who killed his brother.

- ***The Dreamer* (Pam Muñoz Rya) lexile 650 lexile**

A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.

- ***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.