



2026 Summer Reading for Students Entering Ninth Grade English

You are required to read TWO books: one is a whole-class novel, and the other you may choose from the list below. There is no required written assignment to complete. We will, however, be using these titles for discussion and writing activities during the first quarter, so **be sure to complete BOTH required books before August 10.**

Required Text: *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

READING HELP: You are not required to complete a written assignment during the summer, but you are responsible for remembering and being able to discuss and respond to this book in meaningful ways upon your return to school. Therefore, I recommend that you complete an activity to help you keep the book fresh in your mind. You may enjoy one of the following. **These activities will NOT be collected/ graded!!**

- Make annotations about what a character is like at the beginning of the book, key events that cause the character to develop or change, and important changes you see in the character. Note questions or challenges the character raises for you as a reader—what does their journey make you think about?
- Choose 5 important events in the book to illustrate. Write a couple of sentences for each picture detailing why you think that event is important.
- Keep an informal journal of your thoughts as you read, writing down page numbers where key events/quotes appear and your questions/responses to those things.

REQUIRED TEXT #2: You may select ANY BOOK from the list below to satisfy the second half of your summer reading requirement, as long as it is a book you have NOT previously read:

- *American Born Chinese* (graphic novel) by Gene Luen Yang
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *Anthem* by Ayn Rand
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *One of Us Is Lying* by Karen M. McManus
- *Rocket Boys* (memoir) by Homer Hickam
- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld