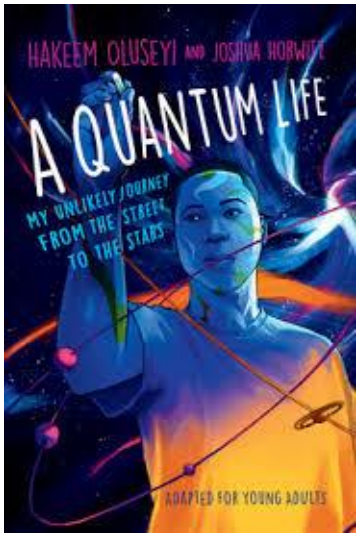
2026 GRADE 9 SUMMER READING — CP & Honors

Choice Biography

Choose ONE of the following biographies to read:

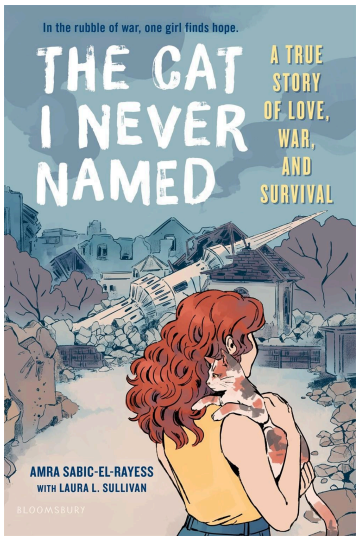


A Quantum Life (Adapted for Young Adults) by Hakeem Oluseyi and Joshua Horwitz

A NASA astrophysicist narrates his improbable journey from an impoverished childhood and an adolescence mired in drugs and crime to the nation's top physics PhD program at Stanford in this inspiring coming-of-age memoir.

In the tradition of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and *The Other Wes Moore*, *A Quantum Life* is an uplifting journey to the stars fueled by hope, hustle, and a hungry mind. As he charts his development as a young scientist, Oluseyi also plumbs the mysteries of the universe where potential personal outcomes are as infinite as the stars in the sky.

Overview from Goodreads



The Cat I Never Named by Amra Sabic-El-Rayes and Laura L. Sullivan

Amra was a teen in Bihac, Bosnia, when her friend said they couldn't speak anymore because Amra was Muslim. Then refugees from other cities started arriving, fleeing Serbian persecution. When Serbian tanks rolled into Bihac, the life she knew disappeared—right as a stray cat followed her home.

This is the story of a teen who, even in the brutality of war, never wavered in her determination to obtain education, maintain friendships, and even find a first love—and the cat that provided comfort, and maybe even served as a guardian spirit, in the darkest of times.

Overview from Goodreads

THE ASSIGNMENT

1. For each third of the book, complete a TQCQ chart (see following pages for details). **Either make a copy of this document so you can type in it or print it to write by hand.**
   - ➢ If you do not have the ability to type or print: You can make your own version. For each of the 3 sections of the book, fold a piece of paper into 4 boxes: Thoughts, Quotes, Connections, Questions.
2. Bring your TQCQ charts to school in September! You will be expected to use them for in-class discussion and assessments.

TQCQ CHARTS FOR GR 9 CHOICE BIOGRAPHY **YOUR NAME:**

FIRST THIRD

A Quantum Life: **Prologue & Chapters 1-24 (Part 1)** ***The Cat I Never Named:*** **1992 (chapter titles = dates)**

THOUGHTS	QUOTES
Choose at least ONE of the following to respond to: • What were your first impressions of this section of the book? Of the central people in the book? • What did you like or agree with? Dislike or disagree with? Explain. • What stood out to you or surprised you in this section of the book? Why?	Choose ONE significant quote from this section of the book: • Record the quote **with a page number** • Explain how/why it reflects a bigger idea, theme, or message OR what it reveals about one of the people in the book (either who says it or who it is about).
	QUOTE WITH PAGE #: ➢
	EXPLANATION: ➢
CONNECTIONS	**QUESTIONS**
What connections can you make between the ideas in this section of the book and (choose at least ONE): • Other books, short stories, movies, TV shows, etc.? • Current or historical events? • Your own experiences? • What you have learned in other classes? Explain the connection.	Choose ONE of the following: • Develop a discussion question for your peers based on the themes or ideas in this section of the book. (Remember: a discussion question should be open-ended and invite different analyses and interpretations. You are not quizzing your peers on the text.) • Develop an interview question for the author based on this section of the book.

MIDDLE THIRD

A Quantum Life: **Chapters 25-51 (Part 2-3)** ***The Cat:*** **1993: Summer — 1993-1994: Winter**

THOUGHTS	QUOTES
Choose at least ONE of the following to respond to: • What were your first impressions of this section of the book? Of the central people in the book? • What did you like or agree with? Dislike or disagree with? Explain. • What stood out to you or surprised you in this section of the book? Why? • Discuss how the people have developed since the beginning of the book.	Choose ONE significant quote from this section of the book: • Record the quote **with a page number** • Explain how/why it reflects a bigger idea, theme, or message OR what it reveals about one of the people in the book (either who says it or who it is about).
	QUOTE WITH PAGE #: ➢
	EXPLANATION: ➢

CONNECTIONS	QUESTIONS
What connections can you make between the ideas in this section of the book and (choose at least ONE): • Other books, short stories, movies, TV shows, etc.? • Current or historical events? • Your own experiences? • What you have learned in other classes? Explain the connection.	Choose ONE of the following: • Develop a discussion question for your peers based on the themes or ideas in this section of the book. (Remember: a discussion question should be open-ended and invite different analyses and interpretations. You are not quizzing your peers on the text.) • Develop an interview question for the author based on this section of the book.

FINAL THIRD

A Quantum Life: **Chapters 52-80 (Part 4) & Epilogue** ***The Cat:*** **1994: Summer — 1998 & Epilogue**

THOUGHTS	QUOTES
Choose at least ONE of the following to respond to: • What were your first impressions of this section of the book? Of the central people in the book? • What did you like or agree with? Dislike or disagree with? Explain. • What stood out to you or surprised you in this section of the book? Why? • Was the ending of the book satisfying? Why or why not?	Choose ONE significant quote from this section of the book: • Record the quote **with a page number** • Explain how/why it reflects a bigger idea, theme, or message OR what it reveals about one of the people in the book (either who says it or who it is about).
	QUOTE WITH PAGE #: ➢
	EXPLANATION: ➢

CONNECTIONS	QUESTIONS
What connections can you make between the ideas in this section of the book and (choose at least ONE): • Other books, short stories, movies, TV shows, etc.? • Current or historical events? • Your own experiences? • What you have learned in other classes? Explain the connection.	Choose ONE of the following: • Develop a discussion question for your peers based on the themes or ideas in this section of the book. (Remember: a discussion question should be open-ended and invite different analyses and interpretations. You are not quizzing your peers on the text.) • Develop an interview question for the author based on this section of the book.