

To: Incoming Students grades 7-12
 From: The English Department
 Re: Summer Reading
 Date: June 2026



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
<p><u>"Tuesday of the Other June"</u> by Norma Fox Mazer <u>(audio)</u></p>	<p><u>"The Scholarship Jacket"</u> by Marta Salinas <u>(audio)</u></p>	<p><u>"Mariam Finds Her Wings"</u> By Elisabeth Greenberg</p>
<p><u>"Scout's Honor"</u> by Avi <u>(audio)</u></p>	<p><u>"Sol Painting, Inc."</u> by Meg Medina <u>(audio)</u></p>	<p><u>"Amigo Brothers"</u> By Piri Thomas <u>(audio)</u></p>
<p><u>"The School Play"</u> by Gary Soto <u>(audio)</u></p>	<p><u>"The Medicine Bag"</u> by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve <u>(audio)</u></p>	<p><u>"The Terror"</u> By Junot Diaz <u>(audio)</u></p>

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"> ▪ <i>Pashmina</i> (Nidhi Chanani) graphic novel/lexile 240 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? ▪ <i>No Fixed Address</i> (Susin Nielsen) lexile 620 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. ▪ <i>Front Desk</i> (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 Shakespeare Stealer* (Gary Blackwood) lexile 840**

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

- ***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.