

2026 PHS Grade 9 CP Genre Studies Summer Reading Assignment

*Incoming ninth-grade Genre Studies students are required to read at least **one book** this summer.*

***College Prep** students must choose a book on this list and record a **minimum of 3 important quotes**.*

*For each quote, write a **50-100-word explanation** as to why this passage is important. Cite each quote using MLA format.*

*This assignment must be typed, include MLA citations, and will be due the first full week of school via Turnitin.com to check for AI and plagiarism. A printed hard copy is also due the first full week of school for reference during a **graded assignment**. The goal is to analyze, not summarize!*

All work must be original; do NOT present ideas from another source or classmate as your own.

Summer Reading - Multilingual Students

We want to ensure that all of you, especially our newcomers and multilingual students, feel included in our summer reading experience. This summer, please choose a book that you feel comfortable reading.

You can:

1. Read any book in your home language that aligns with grade-level appropriate content and text complexity. If you choose this option, make sure the text is complex enough to complete the assignment that follows.
2. Read the translated version of any book from the list that follows.

Whether you are reading in your first language or a new one, the goal is to enjoy reading and expand your learning in a way that is comfortable and meaningful to you.

Choose quotes you think are important in connection to the theme(s) in the book and explain how one or more of the following literary elements impact the book:

- Characterization
- Setting
- Foreshadowing
- Irony
- Theme
- Conflict
- Imagery
- Figurative language

Set up your 2-column quote analysis in the following way and include MLA citations:

QUOTE	SIGNIFICANCE
“Dad was always inventing things, too. One of his most important inventions was a complicated contraption he called the	Although the author portrays the father as an antagonist during the first section of the book, it is clear that, as a child, Jeanette believed her father was a misunderstood genius. The descriptive imagery of her father’s creative inventions, such as The Prospector, implies that the author believed as

Prospector. It was going to help us find gold.” (Walls 23).	a small child that her father was a superhero and capable of fixing anything. There is an internal conflict within Jeanette. Will she forgive her father later in the story? Will The Prospector be used to help the family get the funds to build their dream home?
--	--

You should also look for textual evidence that is interesting, significant, thought-provoking, and puzzling, and **mark them with Post-Its or highlight them** in the book.

For example, you might record:

- Effective and creative use of literary devices like similes, metaphors, personification, etc.
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, or themes
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character, conflict, or setting

Grade 9 Genre Studies CP Summer Reading Titles

As this is a list aimed at high school-level students, some of the books address mature ideas and issues. Please preview the books before making your selections so that you are not surprised by the content.

**** If you are an English Language Learner (ELL), you can choose a book from this list or a book of your choice in your home language as long as it is grade level.**

***The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon**

Over the course of a single day in New York City, two teenagers who have nothing in common randomly meet and fall in love. Now I know that sounds absurdly cliché, but somehow in Nicola Yoon’s hands, it doesn’t read that way. Natasha is a practical young woman trying to keep her family from being deported in a matter of hours. Daniel is a poet at heart, but on this day, he is dutifully making good on his familial commitment to a college interview. The two are inexplicably drawn to each other, and somehow their paths keep converging. The novel is told from alternating points of view, and one of the special touches of Yoon’s book is the chapters narrated by people who are unintentionally part of Natasha and Daniel’s story, mirroring our almost spooky interconnectedness. *The Sun is Also a Star* is a thought-provoking story of possibility, fate, and the illogical beauty of love. (Fiction)

***The Five People You Meet In Heaven* by Mitch Albom**

Eddie is a grizzled war veteran who feels trapped in a meaningless life of fixing rides at the seaside amusement park. His days are a dull routine of work, loneliness, and regret. Then, on his 83rd birthday, Eddie dies in a tragic accident, trying to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakens in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a lush Garden of Eden, but a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people. These people may have been loved ones or distant strangers. Yet each of them changed your path forever. (Fiction)

Last Shot by John Feinstein

When Stevie wins a writing contest for aspiring sports journalists, his prize is a press pass to the Final Four in New Orleans. While exploring the Superdome, he overhears a plot to throw the championship game. With the help of fellow contest winner Susan Carol, Stevie has just 48 hours to figure out who is blackmailing one of the star players . . . and why. (Fiction)

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. But what Starr does - or does not - say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life. (Fiction)

Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah

In Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. (Nonfiction)

Eleven Seconds by Travis Roy and E.M. Swift

In this heartfelt testament to the power of love and the strength of the human spirit, Travis Roy, who suffered a devastating injury eleven seconds into his first college hockey game, reveals how he has managed to cope after the accident and, with the help of family and friends, overcome tremendous barriers to begin a new life. (Nonfiction)

Obsessed: A Memoir of My Life with OCD by Allison Britz

Until sophomore year of high school, fifteen-year-old Allison Britz lived a comfortable life in an idyllic town. She was a dedicated student with tons of extracurricular activities, friends, and loving parents at home. But after awakening from a vivid nightmare in which she was diagnosed with brain cancer, she was convinced the dream had been a warning. Allison believed that she must do something to stop the cancer in her dream from becoming a reality. Unable to act "normal," the once-popular Allison became an outcast. Finally, she allowed herself to ask for help and was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder. This brave memoir tracks Allison's descent and ultimately hopeful climb out of the depths. (Nonfiction)

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris (Graphic Novel or Prose Version allowed)

In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, was forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a Tätowierer (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. Imprisoned for over two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive. One day in July 1942, Lale, prisoner 32407, comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have the number 34902 tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her. A vivid, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov's experiences as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners with what would become one of

the most potent symbols of the Holocaust, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* is also a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions. (Fiction)

***Beneath the Wide Silk Sky* by Emily Inouye Huey**

Sam Sakamoto doesn't have space in her life for dreams. With the recent death of her mother, Sam's focus is the farm, which her family will lose if they can't make one last payment. There's no time for her secret and unrealistic hope of becoming a photographer, no matter how skilled she's become. But Sam doesn't know that an even bigger threat looms on the horizon. On December 7, 1941, Japanese airplanes attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbor. Fury towards Japanese Americans ignites across the country. In Sam's community in Washington State, the attack gives those who already harbor prejudice an excuse to hate. As Sam's family wrestles with intensifying discrimination and even violence, Sam forges a new and unexpected friendship with her neighbor Hiro Tanaka. When he offers Sam a way to resume her photography, she realizes she can document the bigotry around her -- if she's willing to take the risk. When the United States announces that those of Japanese descent will be forced into "relocation camps," Sam knows she must act or lose her voice forever. She engages in one last battle to leave with her identity -- and her family -- intact. Emily Inouye Huey movingly draws inspiration from her own family history to paint an intimate portrait of the lead-up to Japanese incarceration, racism on the World War II homefront, and the relationship between patriotism and protest in this stunningly lyrical debut. (Fiction)

***Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang**

Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him "Stick," and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons' lives but his own life as well. (Graphic Novel)

***My Mechanical Romance* by Alexene Farol Follmuth**

Bel doesn't want to think about the future. College apps? You're funny. Extracurriculars? Not a chance. Joining a robotics club filled with boys who ignore her or--even worse--constantly ask if she needs help? Please, anything but that. But when she accidentally reveals a talent for engineering in class, she has no choice. Enter Mateo Luna, the handsome captain of the club. Teo instantly recognizes Bel's talent. He needs her on the team. And not just because he can't stop thinking about the tiny dusting of freckles around her eyes, or how she got him hooked on Taylor Swift--it's because Bel sees him. She challenges him. But when they seriously start butting heads, Bel wonders: Is there really room for a girl like her in STEM? The author explores both the challenges girls of color face in STEM and the vulnerability of first love with unfailing wit and honesty. (Graphic Novel)

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba**

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled, and modern science was a mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks, some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves, and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

Last Shot by John Feinstein. When Stevie wins a writing contest for aspiring sports journalists, his prize is a press pass to the Final Four in New Orleans. While exploring the Superdome, he overhears a plot to throw the championship game. With the help of fellow contest winner Susan Carol, Stevie has just 48 hours to figure out who is blackmailing one of the star players . . . and why. (Nonfiction)

***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein**

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply about going fast. On the eve of his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through. A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life ... as only a dog could tell it. (Fiction)

***Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green**

Aza Holmes never intended to pursue the disappearance of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Pickett's son Davis. Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. (Fiction)

***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**

Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout. Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system," cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life. As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script, just like in the movies. He writes it all down, scene by scene, the story of how his whole life was turned around in an instant. But despite his efforts, reality is blurred and his vision obscured until he can no longer tell who he is or what is the truth. (Fiction)

***Nimona* by ND Stevenson**

Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. As sidekick and supervillain, Nimona and Lord Blackheart are about to wreak some serious havoc. Their mission: prove to the kingdom that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his buddies at the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are. But as small acts of mischief escalate into a vicious battle, Lord Blackheart realizes that Nimona's powers are as murky and mysterious as her past. And her unpredictable wild side might be more dangerous than he is willing to admit. (Graphic Novel)

Remarkably Bright Creatures

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for

his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova’s son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it’s too late. (Fiction)

***The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods**

On a quiet street in Dublin, a lost bookshop is waiting to be found...For too long, Opaline, Martha, and Henry have been the side characters in their own lives. But when a vanishing bookshop casts its spell, these three unsuspecting strangers will discover that their own stories are every bit as extraordinary as the ones found in the pages of their beloved books. And by unlocking the secrets of the shelves, they find themselves transported to a world of wonder... where nothing is as it seems. (Historical Fiction and Magical Realism)

***The Mamba Mentality* by Kobe Bryant**

Kobe Bryant’s presence on the court was legendary — and it belied a complicated and often troubled life off the court. In *The Mamba Mentality*, Bryant shares his outlook on life and basketball and delves into his famous “Mamba Mentality” philosophy, an approach to playing that’s built on passion, tenacity, and the singular pursuit of athletic excellence. It’s a fascinating look at the gone-too-soon powerhouse player and his thorny relationship with success, fame, and sports.