

Ninth and Tenth Grade Summer Reading List 2011

If there are any books on this list that your parents may not approve of, select another book!

Projects for these books may include a written essay, an oral presentation with a visual aid or a creative project that would require in-depth knowledge of the book.

Abel, Jessica. ***Life Sucks***. Teen vampire Dave Miller, facing the prospect of eternity stocking shelves at an all-night, vampire-owned convenience store in Los Angeles, becomes involved with Rosa, a mortal with a fascination for the dark side, only to find himself in competition for her attentions with a psychotic surfer-vamp. A graphic novel.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Chains***. After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Forge***. Sequel to ***Chains***. Curzon, having matured from boy to man over the course of the winter with the army at Valley Forge, worries that someone will learn he is a runaway slave passing for free, and tries to figure out the meaning of his friendship with Isabel.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Twisted***. After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. ***Ship Breaker***. In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailor scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

Berk, Josh. ***The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin***. When Will Halpin transfers from his all-deaf school into a mainstream Pennsylvania high school, he faces discrimination and bullying, but still manages to solve a mystery surrounding the death of a popular football player in his class.

Bradley, James. ***Flags of Our Fathers***. Presents an account of the Marines who came together during the battle of Iwo Jima to raise the American flag in a moment that has been immortalized in one of the most famous photographs of World War II.

Carson, Ben. ***Gifted Hands***. Captures the physician's fight to beat the odds, the secret behind his outstanding accomplishments, and what drives him to take risks.

Carter, Ally. ***Heist Society***. Fifteen-year-old Kat schemes her way into the best boarding school, hoping to leave the thieving antics of her family behind her, but Hal, a former co-conspirator, appears on campus to tell Kat that a powerful mobster believes her father stole art from a priceless collection, and in order to save him, Kat will have to recover the paintings.

Collins, Suzanne. ***Hunger Games***. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

Collins, Suzanne. ***Catching Fire***. Sequel to ***The Hunger Games***. By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a

life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion.

- Collins, Suzanne. ***Mockingjay***. Sequel to ***Hunger Games*** and ***Catching Fire***. Katniss Everdeen, having survived the Hunger Games twice, learns she and her family and friends are in danger because the Capitol holds her responsible for the unrest and races against time to protect those she cares about and the people of District 12.
- Crowe, Chris. ***Getting Away With Murder: The True Story of Emmett Till Case***. Presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955.
- Coy, John. ***Crackback***. Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.
- Dashner, James. ***The Maze Runner***. Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.
- Dashner, James. ***The Scorch Trials*** (sequel to *The Maze Runner*) Thomas and the Gladers, having solved the Maze, plan on returning to their lives, but instead find the earth a wasteland with Cranks roaming the desert in search of their next meal and they are faced with the challenge of crossing the Scorch in two weeks in order to arrive at a safe haven.
- Draper, Sharon. ***Just Another Hero***. As Kofi, Arielle, Dana, November, and Jericho face personal challenges during their last year of high school, a misunderstood student brings a gun to class and demands to be taken seriously. Last book in the trilogy that began with *The Battle of Jericho* and *November Blues*.
- Fahy, Thomas. ***The Unspoken***. Six teens are drawn back to the small, North Carolina town where they once lived and, one by one, begin to die of their worst fears, as prophesied by the cult leader they killed five years earlier, and who they believe poisoned their parents.
- Fitzpatrick, Becca. ***Hush Hush***. High school sophomore Nora has always been very cautious in her relationships, but when Patch, who has a dark side she can sense, enrolls at her school, she is mysteriously and strongly drawn to him, despite warnings from her best friend, the school counselor, and her own instincts.
- Fleming, Candace. ***The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum***. Chronicles the life of showman P. T. Barnum, discussing how he created his legendary circus, the people and events that shaped his life, and the impact Barnum had on the entertainment industry.
- Grant, Michael. ***Gone series (Gone, Hunger Lies)*** In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not.
- Going, K. L. ***Fat Kid Rules the World***. Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly three hundred pounds, gets a new perspective on life when Curt, a semi-homeless teen who is a genius on guitar, asks Troy to be the drummer in a rock band.

- Goodman, Alison. **Eon: Dragoneye Reborn.** Sixteen-year-old Eon hopes to become an apprentice to one of the twelve energy dragons of good fortune and learn to be its main interpreter, but to do so will require much, including keeping secret that she is a girl.
- Hoose, Philip M. **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice.** Presents an account of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial civil rights case.
- Hooper, Mary. **News From the Dead.** In 1650, while Robert, a young medical student, steels himself to assist with her dissection, twenty-two-year-old housemaid Anne Green recalls her life as she lies in her coffin, presumed dead after being hanged for murdering her child that was, in fact, stillborn.
- Larbalestier, Justine. **Liar.** Compulsive liar Micah promises to tell the truth after revealing that her boyfriend has been murdered.
- Lockhart, E. **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks.** Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.
- Luper, Eric. **Seth Baumgartner's Love Manifesto.** After his girlfriend breaks up with him and he sees his father out with another woman, high school senior Seth Baumgartner, who has a summer job at the country club and is preparing for a father-son golf tournament, launches a podcast in which he explores the mysteries of love.
- MacDonald, Joyce. **Swallowing Stones.** Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael MacKenzie's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle and unknowingly kills the father of high school classmate Jenna Ward.
- Mackler, Carolyn. **The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things.** Feeling like she does not fit in with the other members of her family, who are all thin, brilliant, and good-looking, fifteen-year-old Virginia tries to deal with her self-image, her first physical relationship, and her disillusionment with some of the people closest to her.
- Martino, Alfred/. **Over the End Line.** After scoring the winning goal in the county soccer championship, New Jersey high school senior Jonny finally attains some of the popularity enjoyed by his best friend Kyle, until a devastating event changes everything.
- McMann, Lisa. **Wake.** Ever since she was eight years old, high school student Janie Hannagan has been uncontrollably drawn into other people's dreams, but it is not until she befriends an elderly nursing home patient and becomes involved with an enigmatic fellow-student that she discovers her true power.
- Myers, Walter Dean. **DopeSick.** Seeing no way out of his difficult life in Harlem, seventeen-year-old Jeremy "Lil J" Dance flees into a house after a drug deal goes awry and meets a strange man who reveals different turning points in Lil J's life when he could have made better choices.
- Myers, Walter Dean. **Sunrise Over Fallujah.** Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

- Pullman, Philip. ***The Amber Spyglass***. Lyra and Will find themselves at the center of a battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by Lyra's father, Lord Asriel.
- Roach, Mary. ***Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers***. Both funny and gruesome, this book is about the many things that happen to human bodies after death, from providing practice for plastic surgeons to enabling research on decomposition.
- Sedgwick, Marcus. ***Revolver***. Fourteen-year-old Sig is stranded at a remote cabin in the Arctic wilderness with his father, who died just hours earlier after falling through the ice, when a terrifying man arrives, claiming Sig's father owes him a share of a horde of stolen gold and that he will kill Sig if he does not get his money.
- Smith-Ready, Jeri. ***Shade***. Sixteen-year-old Aura of Baltimore, Maryland, reluctantly works at her aunt's law firm helping ghosts with wrongful death cases file suits in hopes of moving on, but it becomes personal when her boyfriend, a promising musician, dies and persistently haunts her.
- Smith, Roland. ***Peak***. A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.
- Summers, Barbara. ***Open the Unusual Door: true life stories of challenges, adventure and success by Black Americans***. Presents a collection of personal, true life stories based on the experiences of each author in recounting opportunities of challenge, adventure, and success that changed their lives.
- Tolkien, J.J.R. ***The Hobbit***. The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.
- Weaver, Will. ***Checkered Flag Cheater***. Trace Bonham, a teenaged professional stock car racer, blows away the competition wherever he races, but with every victory Trace is increasingly aware that his winning is due to more than just his driving skills.
- Werlin, Nancy. ***Impossible***. When seventeen-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes that she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born to break the curse and to save them both.
- White, T. H. ***The Once and Future King***. Tells the story of the youth and reign of King Arthur, the establishment of the Round Table, and the search for the Holy Grail.
- Wolff, Virginia Ewer. ***True Believer***. Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to.