

INCOMING NINTH GRADE: SUMMER READING LIST

- Abdel-Fattah, Randa Does My Head Look Big in This? NOVEL
Australian, Amal is smart, funny, outspoken, a good student and a loyal friend. She is also a devout Muslim who decides to wear the hijab or head covering, full-time.
- Anderson, Laurie Speak NOVEL
Ostracized at school after calling the police to a raucous summer party, Melinda hides an even more terrible truth by gradually going mute.
- Asinof, Eliot Eight Men Out NON-FICTION
Baseball, scandal and the 1919 World Series.
- Bauer, Joan Squashed NOVEL
Sixteen-year-old Ellie's life would be almost perfect if she could get her potentially prizewinning pumpkin to gain about 200 pounds.
- Berg, Elizabeth Durable Goods NOVEL
Following her mother's death Katie, a young girl living on an army base in 1960's, waits for love and struggles to understand her distant and sometimes violent father.
- Block, Francesca Lia Weetzie Bat NOVEL
Weetzie explores life and love in the half-fantasy, half-real world of Shangri-L.A.
- Blos, Joan A Gathering of Days NOVEL
A fourteen-year-old girl who lives on a family farm in New Hampshire records in her journal the daily events of her life from 1830-1832.
- Bosse, Malcolm The Examination NOVEL
In sixteenth century China two brothers take divergent paths to prepare for the national school examinations.
- Bray, Libba Rebel Angels FANTASY
Gemma and her friends from Spence Academy are determined to defeat her foe Circe and to bind the magic that has been released.
- Brooks, Bruce The Moves Make the Man NOVEL
Trouble lies ahead when Jerome, the only black student in the school, takes on Bix and tries to teach him the fine points of basketball.
- Budhos, Marina Ask Me No Questions NOVEL

When their father, an illegal immigrant, is detained, Nadira and Aisha must maintain an illusion of normalcy while they fight for his release.

- Canales, Viola The Tequila Worm NOVEL
When Sofia is selected to receive a scholarship to boarding school, she sees an opportunity to explore life beyond the barrio.
- Carter, Alden Love, Football and Other Contact Sports SHORT STORIES
Presents a group of interrelated short stories about students in a Wisconsin high school.
- Collins, Suzanne The Hunger Games SCIENCE FICTION
Katniss volunteers to represent her district in the Hunger games, a compulsory, government-sponsored reality TV show from which only one of twenty-four contestants will emerge alive.
- Cooney, Caroline Code Orange NOVEL
While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.
- Cormier, Robert After the First Death NOVEL
The hijacking of a busload of children by terrorists is told from the perspectives of a hostage, a terrorist, an army general involved in the rescue operation, and his son who has been chosen as a go-between.
- Crutcher, Chris King of the Mild Frontier BIOGRAPHY
Funny yet brutally honest autobiography of Crutcher's journey from boyhood in a remote town in Idaho to his present life as a writer.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul Bucking the Sarge NOVEL
Smart, desperate Luther hates his rich, corrupt mom and finds a substitute parent in an unexpected place.
- Deuker, Carl On the Devil's Court NOVEL
Has seventeen-year-old Joe Faust struck an evil bargain in exchange for success on the basketball court?
- Farmer, Nancy The Ear, the Eye and the Arm SCIENCE FICTION
In the year 2194 in Zimbabwe, three children of the country's head of security are kidnapped.
- Fleischman, Paul Mind's Eye NOVEL
An 88-year-old woman and a seventeen-year-old girl, unlikely roommates in a convalescent home, form an intense emotional bond.

- Foon, Dennis The Dirt Eaters NOVEL
 Roan, a fifteen-year-old boy, is thrust into the position of being a hero after his peace-loving village is destroyed.
- Frank, E.R. Life is Funny NOVEL
 Growing up in New York City can be agonizing or humorous, but always challenging, for the group of teenagers who tell their own stories.
- Freedman, Russell Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade against Child Labor NON-FICTION
 An investigative reporter in the early twentieth century took photos that provided visual evidence of the pressing U.S. need for laws against child labor.
- Gallo, Donald, Ed. First Crossings NON-FICTION
 Teenage immigrants reveal what it is like to face prejudice, language barriers and homesickness along with common teenage feelings and needs.
- Glenn, Mel My Friend's Got This Problem, Mr. Candler NOVEL IN VERSE
 A high school guidance counselor interviews students and parents.
- Goodwin, Doris Kearns Wait Till Next Year BIOGRAPHY
 Doris Kearns Goodwin recalls her Brooklyn childhood when she was a diehard fan of the Dodgers.
- Gunther, John Death Be Not Proud NON-FICTION
 A loving father chronicles his teenage son's courageous struggle with a life threatening illness.
- Hautman, Pete, ed. Full House SHORT STORIES
 Ten short stories explore the American card game of poker.
- Hesser, Terry Kissing Doorknobs NOVEL
 Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life.
- Hill, Julia Butterfly The Legacy of Luna NON-FICTION
 Hill climbs 180 feet up into a redwood tree on December 10, 1997 in order to stop a lumber company from clear cutting the area. She doesn't come down for over two years.
- S.E. Hinton That Was Then This Is Now NOVEL
 Mark struggles over whether to protect his best friend or follow his own beliefs about right and wrong.
- Jimenez, Francisco The Circuit NOVEL

The life of a migrant boy who yearns for a permanent home and the opportunity for an education is related in a series of connecting stories.

- Keyes, Daniel Flowers for Algernon NOVEL
Charlie Gordon, a mentally challenged adult, becomes a genius after undergoing a brain operation.
- Koertge, Ron Shakespeare Bats Cleanup NOVEL
Story of a straight talking 14-year-old baseball player who is benched by mononucleosis and decides to take a swing at writing poetry.
- Le Guin, Ursula The Wizard of Earthsea FANTASY
A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he has unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.
- Lord, Bette Bao Spring Moon NOVEL
The pampered granddaughter of one of China's wealthiest landowners recounts her life from childhood, through arranged marriage to a realization that life as she knows it must change.
- Lynch, Chris Shadow Boxer NOVEL
After their father dies in an accident in the boxing ring, teenaged George struggles to keep his brother from participating in the same sport.
- Miller, Logan and Noah Miller Either You're in or You're in the Way
NONFICTION
Two brothers describe the making of their film "Touching Hope."
- Mori, Kyoko Shizuko's Daughter NOVEL
Yuki, a modern Japanese teenager, must come to terms with her mother's suicide.
- Moriarty, Jaclyn The Year of Secret Assignments NOVEL
As part of a pen pal program three girl students from Ashbury High write to three boy students from a rival high school, leading to romance, humiliation, revenge plots and a war between the schools.
- Mowat, Farley Never Cry Wolf NONFICTION
Mowat records his observations of the caribou and wolf populations living in the Keewatin Lands northwest of Hudson Bay.
- Myers, Walter Dean Autobiography of My Dead Brother NOVEL
Two close friends choose entirely different paths as they navigate their teen years in their violence prone Harlem neighborhood.
- Myers, Walter Dean Bad Boy BIOGRAPHY

- Myers' engrossing memoir of growing up in Harlem in the 1940's and 1950's.
- McNaughton, Janet The Secret under My Skin FANTASY
In the year 2368, where humans exist under dire environmental conditions, one young woman uses her love of learning to discover the truth about the planet's future and her own dark past.
- O'Brien, Robert C. Z for Zachariah NOVEL
After a nuclear war Ann Burden thinks she is the last person living on earth until a man in a "safe suit" enters the valley where her family has their home.
- Odom, Mel The Rover FANTASY
Mistaken for a brave hero, and kidnapped by a band of pirate dwarfs, a bookworm librarian saves the day with his vast knowledge of ancient lore.
- Paulsen, Gary Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod
NON-FICTION
For seventeen days Paulsen and his team of sled dogs endure blinding wind, snowstorms, moose attacks and more in the 1,100 mile-long dogsled race called the Iditarod.
- Pearson, Mary The Adoration of Jenna Fox NOVEL
Jenna, severely injured in a car crash, is saved by her heartbroken father, a scientist who illegally uses the latest medical technology to help her.
- Philbrick, W.R. The Last Book in the Universe Is About To Be Destroyed
SCIENCE FICTION
After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager begins a heroic fight to return human intelligence to earth.
- Rock The Rock Says BIOGRAPHY
The Rock gives his fans the inside story on how he became the top man in the World Wrestling Federation.
- Rosoff, Meg How I Live Now NOVEL
Fifteen-year-old Daisy is visiting relatives in England when war breaks out.
- Runyon, Brent The Burn Journals BIOGRAPHY
Presents the true story of Brent Runyon who at fourteen sets himself on fire sustaining burns over eighty percent of his body, and then undergoes months of physical and mental rehabilitation as he attempts to pull his life together again.
- Sachar, Louis Small Steps NOVEL
Two years after being released from Camp Green, Armpit is home in Austin, Texas, trying to turn his life around in this sequel to the novel Holes.

- Sitomer, Alan The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez NOVEL
Tenth-grader Sonia reveals secrets about her life and her Hispanic family as she studies hard to become the first Rodriguez to finish high school.
- Thomas, Rob Rats Saw God NOVEL
In a paper he agrees to write in order to be allowed to graduate, “troubled teen” Steve York reflects on his relationship with his famous astronaut father.
- Ung, Loung First They Killed My Father BIOGRAPHY
True story of a girl who survived the brutality of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.
- Volponi, Paul Black and White NOVEL
Two boys, one black and one white, make a bad mistake and then must learn about the realities of the urban criminal justice system.
- Werlin, Nancy The Rules of Survival NOVEL
When Matthew and his younger sister witness a man confronting an abusive parent, they think they may have found a hero who will save them.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita Like Sisters on the Homefront NOVEL
A tough African-American fourteen-year-old from New York learns some important life lessons when she is sent with her baby to stay with relatives in the South.
- Willis, Connie The Doomsday Book SCIENCE FICTION
A history student in 2048 is transported to England in the 14th century arriving at the outbreak of the Black Plague.
- Wolff, Virginia Euwer Make Lemonade NOVEL IN VERSE
La Vaughn becomes involved in the life of a single teenage mother and her children when she takes a job as a mother’s helper.
- Zevin, Gabrielle Elsewhere NOVEL
After fifteen-year-old Liz is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds she must learn to adjust to a new place that is both like and unlike earth.