

Faculty-Sponsored Reading Choices
Grade 9

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens.

Charles Dickens' historical novel is set in Paris and London during the French Revolution. A nobleman, Charles Darnay, renounces his position and leaves his country and then returns during the Terror to save the life of a servant.

Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson.

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but not legal, a seventeen-year-old-girl, recovering from a serious accident, learns a startling secret about her existence.

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot.

This is the wonderful true story of a kindly animal doctor in England. If you like animals, you will enjoy this book!

Book Thief by Marcus Zusak.

Set during WW II in Germany, Marcus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel begins stealing when she finds something she can't resist—books. This is an unforgettable story of the ability of books to feed the soul.

Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne.

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wired fence.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which book paper burns. This novel is set in the future when firemen burn books forbidden by a totalitarian regime. The hero is a book burner who discovers that books are flesh and blood ideas and cry out silently when put to the torch.

GeekSpeak: How Life +Mathematics=Happiness by Graham Tattersall*

Graham Tattersall uses his math skills to identify solutions to some of life's greatest questions and deciphers the depth of someone's vocabulary, the weight of a house, whether the dead outnumber the living, the best words to use in a personal ad, and more.

Graceling by Kristen Cashore.

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace, the Grace of killing, and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck.*

This is one of the truly great American novels. This novel is about the Joad family during the Great Depression.

Handle with Care by Jodi Picoult. *

Jodi Picoult's latest novel offers a glimpse into the life of a family whose daughter is born with a severe medical condition that could have been prevented.

Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard by Kiran Desai

Desai's first novel is a wild, sad, humorous story about the oldest son of an eccentric family in a small Indian village.

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.

In a future North America where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against each other, sixteen-year-old Katniss finds her skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell.

The author explores why some people are high achievers and others are not, citing culture, family, and upbringing as possible reasons some people are not as successful as others.

Peaches by Jodi Lynn Anderson. *

Three teen girls from very different backgrounds, thrown together to pick peaches in a Georgia orchard, spend a summer in pursuit of the right boy, the truest of friends, and the perfect peach!

Shift by Jennifer Bradbury.

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross-country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns home, the FBI wants to know what happened. This story will knock the wind out of you!

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas.

This story tells the adventures of Edmond Dantes, a dashing young sailor falsely accused of treason. The story of his long imprisonment, dramatic escape, and carefully wrought revenge offers up a vision of France that has become immortal.

The Kitchen Boy by Robert Alexander.

Robert Alexander brings to life the Romanov's kitchen boy Leonka, whom the Bolshevik's mysteriously spared and who in turn vanished into the bloody tides of the Russian Revolution. But what did the young boy see in those final days of the Imperial family?

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University, was asked to give a "last lecture", he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he has recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

***Books with a * indicate some adult language or content.**