



## 2009-2010 SUMMER READING

Summer reading in the High School is designed to promote pleasure in reading, enabling students both to explore intellectual interests related to their course work and to discover books and subjects they might not otherwise encounter.

To accomplish these goals, each student is asked to read three books from the lists for his or her grade level next year. At least one of these books must be chosen from the English list; the other two books may be chosen from either the general list or the English list.

Advanced Placement courses, intended to be more rigorous than courses in the regular curriculum, may require additional summer assignments.

### Ninth Grade English Summer Reading List

We strongly urge you to investigate as many of these books as possible through your favorite library, bookstore or website.

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| Angelou, <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>                                     | McBride, <i>The Color of Water</i>                                    |
| Ashe, <i>Days of Grace</i>  | Mishima, <i>The Sound of Waves</i>                                    |
| Bradbury, <i>The Martian Chronicles</i>   | Mitchell, <i>Gone With the Wind</i>                                   |
| Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i>  | Orwell, <i>1984</i>   |
| Buck, <i>The Good Earth</i>   | Potok, <i>The Chosen</i>  |
| Card, <i>Ender's Game, Speaker for the Dead,</i><br><b>OR</b> <i>Ender's Shadow</i> | Quinn, <i>Ishmael</i>   |
| Crichton, <i>Prey</i> (or other books by this author)                               | Salinger, <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>                               |
| Dickens, <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>  | Solzhenitsyn, <i>One Day in the Life of Ivan</i><br><i>Denisovich</i> |
| Du Maurier, <i>Rebecca</i>  | Twain, <i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's</i><br><i>Court</i>   |
| Earley, <i>The Blue Star</i>  | Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>                                  |
| Gaines, <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>  | Watson, <i>Montana, 1948</i>  |
| Gies, <i>Anne Frank Remembered</i>  | Wiesel, <i>Night</i>  |
| Grisham, <i>A Time to Kill</i>  | Wright, <i>Black Boy</i>  |
| Gunther, <i>Death Be Not Proud</i>  |   |
| Haley, <i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>  |   |
| Heinlein, <i>Stranger in a Strange Land</i>   |   |
| Hersey, <i>Hiroshima</i>  |   |
| Hesse, <i>Siddhartha</i>  |   |
| Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>  |   |
| Jenkins, <i>Walk Across America</i>   |   |
| Kidd, <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>  |   |
| Kingsolver, <i>The Bean Trees</i>   |   |
| Krakauer, <i>Into Thin Air</i>  |   |
| Mayle, <i>A Year in Provence</i>  |   |

## Ninth Grade General Summer Reading List

**Mitch Albom, *Tuesdays with Morrie***

Albom spends time with his chronically ill former teacher, and in doing so he learns important lessons about courage and life. (Angy Hilgendorf and Betty White)

**Lance Armstrong, *It's Not About The Bike: My Journey Back to Life***

Lance Armstrong's diagnosis of and recovery from cancer, his triumphs in the world of cycling, and his understanding of life. (Angy Hilgendorf)

**Connie Barlow, *The Ghosts of Evolution: Nonsensical Fruit, Missing Partners, and Other Ecological Anachronisms***

Ever wonder what those big green balls that fall off trees are? This book explains strange fruits of our region and their present and historical animal dispersers. (Lorna Morris)

**John Berger, *Pig Earth***

For the past twenty years Berger--novelist, painter, and art historian--has lived in a small village in the French Alps. Fascinated by the traditions and endangered way of life of the mountain people, he has written about them both in his fiction and nonfiction. Set in a small village in the French Alps, *Pig Earth* relates the stories of skeptical, hard-working men and independent women. (Delia Seigenthaler)

**Laurence Block, *The Burglar Who Liked to Quote Kipling or The Burglar Who Painted Like Mondrian***

Murder mysteries in the Bernie Rhodenbarr series. Just one, please! (Robin Lynn Woo)

**Dan Brown, *The DaVinci Code***

Intrigue, politics, history, theology, and art form the basis for this riveting novel that, among other things, investigates the power of the feminine in Christianity. (Betty White)

**Willa Cather, *My Antonia***

Set in the Great Plains during the 19th century western expansion, this beautifully written story focuses upon a young female immigrant's experiences. (Diane Sorrel)

**Jared Diamond, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed***

Thick, but well worth the read, and a great introduction to the long-term environmental relationships among ancient and medieval peoples and the world around them. (Mackey Luffman)

**Gerald Durrell, *My Family and Other Animals***

When Gerald Durrell was a boy, his family moved from England to Corfu, Greece. On this island, Gerald indulged in the fascination with strange animals that would later make him a world-renowned zoologist, while his eccentric brothers and sisters had adventures of their own. (Ann Wheeler)

**Finkelstein and Silberman, *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Texts***

Accessible survey of Biblical archaeology and its implications for understanding the Bible as an historical account. (Mackey Luffman)

**Anne Garrels, *Naked in Baghdad: The Iraq War as Seen by NPR's Correspondent Ann Garrels***

A National Public Radio reporter's account of the Iraq war. (Angy Hilgendorf)

**John Gimlette, *At the Tomb of the Inflatable Pig***

A British man travels to Paraguay and becomes fascinated with the country, its history, and its people. Gimlette does a wonderful job describing the strange history of this unusual and unknown place in a humorous and entertaining manner. (Lourdes Cuellar)

**Bernd Heinrich, *Winter World : The Ingenuity of Animal Survival***

Description of animals' amazing adaptations for surviving harsh Maine winters. (Lorna Morris)

**Eugen Herrigel, *Zen in the Art of Archery***

A philosophy professor attracted to mysticism while teaching in Tokyo seeks to understand Zen Buddhism through the medium of archery by apprenticing himself to a Zen Master. (Gus Gillette)

**Homer Hickam, *October Sky***

The memoir of a coal miner's son who was inspired by Werner von Braun and his Cape Canaveral team to take up rocketry against his father's wishes. Hickman grew up to be a NASA engineer, and his memoir of the bumpy ride toward a gold medal at the National Science Fair in 1960 is rich in humor as well as warm sentiment. (Angy Hilgendorf)

**Shirley Jackson, *Life Among the Savages***

If your picture of Jackson is that she is only a writer of the peculiar and the macabre, read this autobiography to see her great sense of humor, too. As she writes about her life as a mom, Jackson entertains us with stories about the little "savages" with whom she lives. (Elizabeth Coble)

**Christian Jacq, *Ramses: Volume 1: Son of Light***

The author, a French Egyptologist, takes some basic historical facts about the Pharaoh Ramses and adds a healthy dose of imagination and speculation, creating an almost but not quite believable story in five volumes. This first volume introduces the reader to Ramses, Moses, Homer and assorted other historical figures as Ramses' father tests his young son's ability to rule. (Penny Phillips)

**Roger Kahn, *The Boys of Summer***

"At a point in life when one is through with boyhood, but has not yet discovered how to be a man, it was my fortune to travel with the most marvelously appealing of teams." The first sentence of this masterpiece of sporting literature sets its tone. The team is the mid-20th-century Brooklyn Dodgers, the team of Robinson and Snyder and Hodges and Reese, a team of great triumph and import. (Trent Boysen)

**Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz***

The memoirs of an Italian Holocaust survivor, going beyond the narration of horrors to deeply moving philosophical introspection on the nature of man and evil. (Original title: *If This is a Man*) (Marc Lavine)

**James A. Michener, *Mexico***

The story of an American journalist who travels to Mexico to report on a bullfight between two great matadors and, while there, discovers the history of his Mexican ancestors. (Rhonda Prater)

**Farley Mowat, *Never Cry Wolf***

Mowat's account of the summer he lived alone in the frozen tundra observing the wolves is a remarkable tale. Through his studies he develops a deep affection for these wild creatures, which are of no threat to the caribou or man. (Tamara Berthel)

**Shoba Narayan, *Monsoon Diary: A Memoir with Recipes***

This book weaves a fascinating food narrative that combines delectable Indian recipes with tales from her life, stories of her delightfully eccentric family, and musings about Hindu culture and custom in contrast to life in her adopted America. (Angy Hilgendorf)

**Lillian Rogers Parks (with Frances Spatz Leighton), *My Thirty Years Backstairs at the White House***

The autobiography of Lillian Rogers Parks, who was for thirty years a seamstress and hair dresser at the White House. While Parks acknowledges major historical and political events, her primary focus is on the first families as people with the same strengths and frailties we all possess. (Penny Phillips)

**David Quammen, *The Flight of the Iguana: A Sidelong View of Science and Nature***

A collection of offbeat essays by one of the greatest nature writers. (George Flatau)

***The Ramayana***

One of two classic epics of the Indian canon. Many scholars recommend the translation by Ramesh Menon; the translation by R.K. Narayan is less complex and less faithful but more accessible. (Mackey Luffman)

**Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation***

This is an in-depth look at the culture of fast food in America, but it goes far beyond the gross-out phenomenon that defines *Super Size Me*. It's a close look at the historical landscape of Southern California that was the birthplace of inexpensive, road-friendly food, and a clever discussion of the far-reaching social, cultural, and economic ripples that Ray Kroc and Carl Karcher created. (Justin Karpinos)

**Ken Silverstein, *The Radioactive Boy Scout***

This is the true story of a teenage boy who engages in all kinds of science experiments, ultimately building a breeder reactor. David uses ingenious ways to obtain his materials, to garner information, and to achieve his ultimate goal of building a nuclear breeder. The fact that he goes unnoticed for so many years causes consternation from the EPA and FBI. (Betty White)

**Stella Suberman, *The Jew Store***

An insightful look at the South from the perspective of a child growing up as a member of the only Jewish family in a small Tennessee town. (Steve Robins)

**Lisa Ray Turner and Blaine Ray, *Casi se muere* (ISBN 0-929724-43-7)**

An American girl goes to high school in Chile. (In Spanish) (Rhonda Prater)

**Lisa Ray Turner and Blaine Ray, *El Viaje de su Vida* (ISBN 0-929724-49-6)**

Sixteen year old Carlos Ayala of Cincinnati, Ohio, goes on a cruise with his family from the U.S. to the Yucatan. (In Spanish) (Rhonda Prater)

**Spencer Wells, *The Journey of Man : A Genetic Odyssey***

Genetic research like the kind Wells does is revolutionizing human paleoanthropology and rewriting much of humanity's growth, from a small group of maybe 100 individuals in Africa (50,000-100,000 years ago) colonizing what will soon become our 10 billion-strong human population on Earth. (Steve Smail)