

## Reading Assignment for *All Grade 9 Students*

### Focus: Reading for Enjoyment

For your summer reading, select one book from this list. The ninth-grade teachers hope you will agree that these titles belong on a list of “best reads” for summer reading.

As you read, please take notes that you will **use for an assignment selected by your teacher when you return to school**. Your notes should focus on the following:

- Major plot events, including turning point(s)
- Major characters, including names, ages, characteristics, and relationships to other characters
- Setting, including description of the time and place of the action
- Conflicts and resolutions

Your notes will assist you in completing your project when school begins, but the notes themselves are not the project.

### Reading Assignment for English 9 Honors Only:

- All students read Mark Haddon’s *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and be prepared to discuss the book when we return to school in the fall.
- All students are also required to read **another book of their choice** from the list provided.
- Take note of passages that you find particularly significant, for content and for language use, **in both texts**.

For additional information, please contact ELA administrator  
Mike Olley at  
453-1500 or  
MOLley@liverpool.k12.ny.us

Also available online at:  
<https://sites.google.com/liverpool.k12.ny.us/lhs-summer-reading>

For students entering...  
**Grade 9**

## Language Arts Program Summer Reading



### Liverpool High School Annex

Research has shown that the summer months out of school can cause a decline in student skills. To combat this loss, as well as to remind students of the enjoyment that can come from reading a good book, we require students entering grades 7-12 to read one novel from a grade-level specific list of choices. Please review the enclosed choices together, select a novel of interest to the student, and complete the note-taking activity outlined herein, which will help with a project that will be assigned when we return to school in September.

We know access to physical books might be limited due to COVID-19 related closures. Please do your best to choose a comparable text if you can't find one listed on the next page. Here are some online resources to help:

First stop, our **library's eBooks & Audiobooks** page:

<https://sites.google.com/liverpool.k12.ny.us/lhslibraries/ebooks-audiobooks?authuser=0>

The **Liverpool Public Library** has lots of resources to help too:

<https://lpl.org/explore/books-and-more/audiobooks/>

Also, check out these resources:

**LibriVox:** free public domain audiobooks; <https://librivox.org/>

**Project Gutenberg:** lists free audio & computer generated readings  
[http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Gutenberg:The\\_Audio\\_Books\\_Project](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Gutenberg:The_Audio_Books_Project)

**Open Culture** curates a list of free recordings of short stories & books on the web: <http://www.openculture.com/freeaudiobooks>

**Grade 9: Annotated Bibliography For All Grade 9 Students** You must select one book of your choice from this annotated list. Lexile scores are listed as a means of gauging complexity level (an average Lexile level for a beginning 9<sup>th</sup> grade text is approximately 800-900L). *Parental review of this list is encouraged in order to assist students in making personally challenging and satisfying choices.*

***Generalized fiction novels***

Adeyemi, Toni. ***Children of Blood and Bone***. A stunning world of dark magic and danger in a West African-inspired fantasy debut, featuring a strong-willed protagonist who has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. (670L)

Reynolds, Jason & Kiely, Brendan. ***All American Boys***. Two teens – one black, one white – grapple with repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension. (770L)

Gatz, Alan. ***Refugee***. A Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. A Cuban girl in 1994. A Syrian boy in 2015. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. (800L)

Lee, Harper. ***To Kill a Mockingbird***. Set in Alabama during the Great Depression and told through the eyes of young Scout Finch, you learn about her father Atticus Finch, an attorney who hopelessly strives to prove the innocence of a black man unjustly accused of a crime and about her mysterious neighbor Boo Radley. (790L).

Nelson, Jandy. ***I'll Give You the Sun***. As twins, Noah and his sister Jude struggle with the gift of almost telepathic closeness and a parallel burden of jealousy and anger. Their viewpoints alternate in this richly plotted novel, with Noah telling the sections when they are thirteen, and Jude the parts where they are sixteen. (740L)

Murphy, Julie. ***Dumplin'***. Willowdean is confident, funny, and comfortable in her own skin, even though some people would call her fat. Then she falls for Bo, who seems to like her back. A Texas beauty pageant, changing friendships, new romance and a protagonist who loves Dolly Parton, this is an entertaining novel. (710L)

Shusterman, Neal. ***Unwind***. In America after the Second Civil War, The Bill of Life states that human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of thirteen. Between the ages of 13 and 18, a parent may choose to retroactively get rid of a child through a process called "unwinding" so that troublesome or unwanted teens are able to easily be unwound. (740L)

Shusterman, Neal. ***Challenger Deep***. Caden Bosch is 15, fiercely intelligent, and an aspiring artist who enjoys illustrating the computer games he and his friends create. He is also schizophrenic, drifting further from the present and deeper into

his own mind until he is living in dual realities, both frightening and confusing. (800L)

Ng, Celeste. ***Little Fires Everywhere***. A meditation on the nature of motherhood, the dangers of privilege and a cautionary tale about how even the tiniest of secrets can rip families apart. (870L)

Toten, Teresa. ***The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B***. OCD teen, Adam, falls in love with Robyn, a girl in his support group and decides this might help him be "normal". However, a hoarder mom and a divorced dad with a new baby complicate things. (620L).

***Books told in alternate format:***

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Brown Girl Dreaming***. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. (990L)

Reynolds, Jason. & Kiely, Brendan. ***Long Way Down***. Fiercely stunning novel told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. (720L)

Crowder, Melanie. ***Audacity***. Told in verse - Clara, a Russian Jewish Immigrant living in New York City, gets a job in the garment industry and become involved in fighting for women's rights in the workplace. (1120L)

Schlitz, Laura Amy. ***The Hired Girl***. Told in a diary format. In 1911, 14-year-old Joan runs away from her cruel father's farm and becomes a hired girl for a Jewish family in Baltimore for \$6 a week. Inspired by the author's grandmother's journey. (810L)

Kwame Alexander. ***Booked***. Told through a series of poems. Soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. (660L)

***Non-Fiction:***

Marrin, Albert. ***Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy***. One hundred years ago, a fire broke out in a garment factory in New York City that took the lives of 146 workers, primarily poor Jewish and Italian immigrants. It had an enormous impact on workplace conditions that reverberates even today. (1000L)

Van Wagenen, Maya. ***Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek***. This memoir of Maya Van Wagenen's eighth grade year is one part 1950s popularity guidebook mixed with two parts courage and one truly modern geek girl. She uses Betty Cornell's *Teenage Popularity Guide* to take on the social hierarchy of her school and manages to achieve acceptance and understanding. (770L)