

# Summer Reading List 2018: English 9

## for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders



\* Parents/Guardians should review this list with the students and assist them in selecting a book appropriate for their reading level, maturity, and personal interest.\*

### Assignment

1. Take notes as you read TWO books. Use the reading charts that we have provided for you. In addition to the reading charts, take copious “notebook notes” (continue the charts on your own notebook paper; the one provided sheet is not enough). Staple the pages of notes for each book together so that you have two packets to hand in.
2. Focus extensively on literary elements. While you must complete each part of the chart, the literary elements column should be where you exert the most energy. **You will need specific examples from the book.** Here are some literary terms you should be very familiar with: **alliteration, conflict, flashback, foreshadowing, hyperbole, imagery, irony, literal vs. figurative meaning, metaphor, mood, narrator, onomatopoeia, personification, simile, theme, etc.**
3. When you return in September, you will receive a grade for your reading charts. Additionally, you will complete various assignments on the summer reading throughout the first few weeks of school.

*If you have any questions or concerns, please email [sderdzinski@tullyschools.org](mailto:sderdzinski@tullyschools.org), [jfranke@tullyschools.org](mailto:jfranke@tullyschools.org) and/or [julie.benninger@tullyschools.org](mailto:julie.benninger@tullyschools.org).*

### **The grade for your notes will be determined using the following rubric:**

**100%** - All notes are thorough, complete, detailed, and accurate. The student clearly thought about the reading and made insightful connections regarding characters, events, and literary elements.

**80%** - Most notes are complete, detailed, and accurate. There may be some missing details or inaccuracies. The student clearly read the book but did not take his/her notes to a higher level of thinking.

**65%** - Some notes are complete, detailed, and accurate. There are many details missing and some sections are not completed. The student did the bare minimum.

**0%** - Blank or not turned in

### Book List

**You will be reading a total of TWO books.**

- **You must read:** *West Side Story* by Irving Shulman
- AND
- **A book of your choice that you have not read before**

## **Suggestion List**

*If you are having trouble selecting a book, check out the titles and summaries below! You may select one of the books below or a book of your choice that you have not read before and is an appropriate reading level.*

### ***An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff**

This true story is about the author and her friend, Maurice. They met on 56<sup>th</sup> street in Manhattan in 1986, when she was a 35-year-old single, successful ad sales executive, and he was an 11-year-old homeless panhandler. He asked her for spare change; she ignored him and kept walking. But something made her stop, and turn around, and go back to him, and that day she took him to lunch at McDonalds. This is the story of how Maurice changed her life. It is the story of how two people who needed each other somehow became unlikely friends, against all odds. It is the story of the mysterious, unseen connections that exist between people who are destined to meet—and how, if only we open our eyes and our hearts to them, these connections can be the great blessings of our lives.

### ***Breathing Underwater* by Alex Finn**

To his friends, popular and handsome sixteen-year-old Nick Andreas has led a charmed life, but the guys in Nick's anger management class know differently. So does his ex-girlfriend Caitlin. Now it looks like the only person who doesn't realize how far from perfect Nick's life has become is Nick himself. This book proceeds in two different time frames: the journal in which Nick relives the course of his tender but stormy love affair with Caitlin and the time after the restraining order, in which a desperate and friendless Nick struggles to understand and overcome his anger.

### ***Con-fidence* by Todd Strasser**

Lauren would love to be part of the popular crowd at school, and when an attractive new girl seems to befriend her and offers a chance at popularity, Lauren does not recognize how she is being manipulated. This novel highlights the darker side of cliques, peer pressure, acceptance, and friendship.

### ***Define Normal* by Julie Anne Peters**

This story is about two girls--a "punk" and a "priss"--who find themselves facing each other in a peer-counseling program. They are complete opposites. Antonia is a straight-A student whose parents are divorced, and she is struggling to keep what's left of her family together as her mother battles depression. Jazz's family is wealthy and seemingly perfect. As they continue through the 15 hours of peer counseling, it becomes clear that both girls have issues they need to work through. This unlikely pair soon discovers that they have some surprising things in common.

### ***Harris and Me* by Gary Paulsen**

This summer will be different. That's for sure. When an eleven-year-old city boy is dropped off to stay on a farm with relatives, he doesn't know what to expect. His cousin, Harris, soon takes care of that. Harris is rude and crude and finds trouble at every turn. He leads his city cousin into everything from wrestling pigs, to catching mice, to a daredevil jump out of a barn loft. Yet, that's not all. There are swimming and cowboy movies and enough good food to fill the boys up for days. Farm life is hard but never lonely. Before long, Harris's cousin has found a place where he belongs. If only summer could last forever.

### ***The Misfits* by James Howe**

Best friends for years, four seventh graders have all been the target of cruel name-calling, but now that they're in seventh grade, they're not about to take it anymore. This hilarious novel focuses on the quietest of the bunch, overweight Bobby, showing how he evolves from nerd to hero when he starts speaking his mind. Addie, his friend, decides that the four of them should run against more popular peers in the upcoming student council election. But her lofty ideals and rabble-raising speeches make the wrong kind of waves, offending fellow classmates, teachers and the principal.

\*Book summaries have been modified from the book covers.

Summer Reading Chart: English 9

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Pages</b>	<b>Setting:</b> time period, season, location, imagery that contributes to setting, etc.	<b>Characterization:</b> descriptions of characters' personality, physicality, perception; label antagonist and protagonist.	<b>Plot:</b> list important events chronologically.	<b>Literary Elements:</b> provide the example, cite it, label it with a literary element, and explain how it enhances the story.

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