

SOF - 9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2020

Welcome to ninth grade! Over the summer, you are expected to read a selection of books that you have not previously read. You should choose, read, and write about a minimum of four books (although we'd love for you to read more!), including at least one book from each of the following four categories:

- Narrative nonfiction
- Scientific nonfiction
- Historical texts
- Novels

While there are lists provided for this purpose below, you are also more than welcome to pursue individual interests. Feel free to email us if you'd like to read something other than those on the list. Our emails are provided next to the appropriate categories.

THE WHY: Not only is reading essential to your success throughout the academic year, but it is also crucial to your ongoing learning in general. Research shows that students who read consistently enjoy better retention of content as well as higher writing skills and increased preparation for the upcoming school year. Simply put, it is important to us that you keep reading so that you keep thinking this summer! Read more about that here*

THE HOW: First and foremost, read attentively. It would be wise to record your thoughts in an informal way as you read so that you are well prepared to respond in a way that reflects your abilities as a reader and writer. When you have finished each book, respond to ONE of the following questions in a page of writing:

- What was interesting, moving, or unique about this book?
- How would you describe this book if you were recommending it to a friend?
- How does this book compare to other books you've read? Does it remind you of a certain author's writing style? Does it differ significantly from your favorites? Is this selection part of a larger series or group of writings and topics that interest you as a reader?
- What lessons can be learned from this book? What do you know now that you didn't before you read it?

THE WHEN: This assignment will be collected for a grade on the first day of school. Please come prepared with a hard copy of your assignment on that day. We can't wait to meet you!

* <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm#bibliography>

Narrative Nonfiction - Email your English teachers TBD & Ms. Rediker (evarediker@gmail.com) if you would like to read and write about a book in this category that is not listed here.

- Tuesdays with Morrie - Mitch Albom
- A Long Way Gone - Ishmael Beah
- 4,000 Days: My Life and Survival in a Bangkok Prison - Warren Fellows
- Seabiscuit: An American Legend - Laura Hillenbrand
- Twelve Years a Slave - Solomon Northup
- A Night to Remember - Walter Lord
- 127 Hours - Aron Ralston
- The Glass Castle - Jeanette Walls
- Night - Elie Weisel
- Chinese Cinderella - Adeline Yen Mah
- Friday Night Lights - H. G. Bissinger
- Same But Different - Holly Robinson Peete
- When I Was Puerto Rican - Esmeralda Santiago
- March #1,2,3 - John Lewis

Scientific Nonfiction - Email your biology teachers Ms. Birden (ebirden@sof.edu) & Ms. Rediker (evarediker@gmail.com) if you would like to read and write about a book in this category that is not listed here.

- The World Without Us - Alan Weisman
- The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals - Michael Pollan
- Omnivore's Dilemma for Kids: The Secrets Behind What You Eat - Michael Pollan
- Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers - Mary Roach
- Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the American Meal - Eric Schlosser
- Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food - Eric Schlosser & Charles Wilson
- A Journey Into the 3.5-Billion Year History of the Human Body - Neil Shubin
- A Short History of Nearly Everything - Bill Bryson
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - Rebecca Skloot
- The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History - Elizabeth Kolbert
- Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind - Yuval Noah Harari
- The Body: A Guide for Occupants - Bill Bryson

Historical Texts - Email your history teachers Ms. VanDuinen (svanduinen@sof.edu) and Mr. Stayton (cstayton@sof.edu) if you would like to read and write about a book in this category that is not listed here. *Please note that it must focus on pre-1800 history outside of the United States.* If you are not able to find a book that meets those parameters, there are two books on this list (Outliers & Freakonomics) that are widely available and focus on general themes in Social Science.

- The Good Earth - Pearl S. Buck
- Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science - Marc Aronson
- Outliers: The Story of Success - Malcolm Gladwell
- A Voyage Long And Strange: On the Trail of Vikings, Conquistadors, Lost Colonists, and Other Adventurers in Early America - Tony Horwitz
- Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything - Levitt & Dubner
- Guns, Germs & Steel - Jared Diamond
- SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome - Mary Beard
- Salt: A World History - Mark Kurlansky
- A People's History of the World: From the Stone Age to the New Millennium - Chris Harman
- The Silk Roads: A New History of the World - Peter Frankopan
- Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind - Yuval Noah Harari
- Any biography of a historical figure or event from pre-1800 history outside of the United States

Novels - Email your English teachers TBD & Ms. Rediker (evarediker@gmail.com) if you would like to read and write about a book in this category that is not listed here.

- A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - Dougllass Adams
- What If It's Us - Becky Albertalli
- Feed Matthew - Tobin Anderson
- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian - Sherman Alexie
- War Dances - Sherman Alexie
- In the Time of Butterflies - Julia Alvarez
- Speak - Laurie Halse Anderson
- Thirteen Reasons Why - Jay Asher
- Foundation - Isaac Asimov
- I, Robot - Isaac Asimov
- City of Thieves - David Benioff
- Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury
- Upstate - Kalisha Buckhanon
- Ender's Game - Orson Scott Card
- Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky
- The House on Mango Street - Sandra Cisneros

- Stolen - Lucy Christopher
- Mortal Instruments Series - Cassandra Clare
- 2001 - Arthur C. Clarke
- Childhood's End - Arthur C. Clarke
- Shelter Series - Harlan Coben
- Little and Lion - Brandy Colbert
- The Hunger Games Series - Suzanne Collins
- Whale Talk - Chris. Crutcher
- Krik Krak - Edwidge Danicat
- I Will Save You - Matt de la Pena
- Stranger with My Face - Lois Duncan
- Like Water For Chocolate - Laura Esquivel
- Anansi Boys - Neil Gaiman
- A Hole in My Life - Jack Gantos
- Looking for Alaska - John Greene
- Bleachers - John Grisham
- To All the Boys I've Loved Before - Jenny Han
- Dune - Frank Herbert
- The Outsiders - S. E. Hinton
- Crank - Ellen Hopkins
- Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini
- The Secret Life of Bees - Sue Monk Kidd
- I'll Give You the Sun - Jandy Nelson
- To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee
- We Were Liars - E. Lockhart
- Life of Pi - Yann Martel
- A Member of the Wedding - Carson McCullers
- Monster Walter - Dean Myers
- The Sound of Waves - Yukio Mishima
- Black Girl White Girl - Joyce Carol Oates
- My Sister's Keeper - Jodi Picoult
- Thinner Than Thou - Kit Reed
- The Upstairs Room - Johanna Reiss
- Opposite of Always - Jason A Reynolds
- Crazy Loco: Stories - David Rice
- Divergent Series - Veronica Roth
- Eleanor and Park - Rainbow Rowell
- I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter - Erika L. Sanchez
- The Lovely Bones - Alice Sebold
- Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck
- Dear Martin - Nic Stone
- Joy Luck Club - Amy Tan
- On The Come Up - Angie Thomas
- The Hate You Give - Angie Thomas
- Lord of the Rings - J. R. R. Tolkein
- The Sun Is Also A Star - Nicola Yoon
- Black Enough - Ibi Zoboi
- The Book Thief - Markus Zusak