

SOF - 9th Grade Summer Assignment 2023

Welcome to 9th grade! Your summer assignment has two components:

- 1) A survey: <https://forms.gle/wmjRMyCUY1iLtnzVA> (This assignment will be available on our website <https://www.sof.edu/> as well, to make accessing this link easier).
- 2) The following Math assignment: [Algebra 1 Summer Assignment](#) - Email Mr. Brostrom (ibrostrom@sof.edu) or Ms. Kramer (skramer@sof.edu) if you have any questions.
- 3) A reading assignment: Over the summer, we recommend you read a selection of books that you have not previously read. 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:

SUMMARY:

1. Please read a book from the list of scientific nonfiction to read and enjoy and **OPTIONAL:** email your teachers with a short summary of your thoughts.
2. Please select a book from the list provided for History to read and enjoy and **OPTIONAL:** email your teachers with a short summary of your thoughts.
3. Please select a book from the list provided for English to read and enjoy and **OPTIONAL:** email your teachers with a short summary of your thoughts.

**In total, you should read at least 3 books over the course of the summer.*

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, here are questions to consider:

- 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: Please email your short summaries to your teachers before the first day of school (Thursday, September 7th)!

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

Scientific Nonfiction - Email your biology teachers Ms. Birden (ebirden@sof.edu) and Ms. Kramer (skramer@sof.edu) 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
- Braiding Sweetgrass - Robin Wall Kimmerer

Historical Texts - *You are welcome to read a book NOT on this list, but we ask that it focus primarily on pre-1800 history outside of the United States, given that you will be taking an Ancient World History course in 9th grade.* Email your history teachers Ms. VanDuinen (svanduinen@sof.edu) & Ms. Walford (jwalford@sof.edu) to give them your thoughts on the book when you finish. If History isn't really your thing, there are two books on this list (in bold) that are widely available and focus on general themes in Social Studies. If you have any recommendations to add to this list, please let us know as well.

- 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
- Searching for Sarah Rector - Tonya Bolden
- Things Fall Apart - Chinua Achebe
- Girls At War - Chinua Achebe
- Any biography of a historical figure or book about an event from pre-1800 history outside of the United States

English - Below you will find a list of books that you might enjoy. We encourage you to explore some of these at your own pace and in a stress-free way. If you select any of these and you really enjoyed them, *we would love to talk to you about them and cannot wait to hear your thoughts.* Email your English teacher Ms. Rediker (erediker@sof.edu) and Ms. Walford (jwalford@sof.edu) if you would like recommendations that are more tailored to your interests or if you have any questions/ concerns/ would like to say hello before September!

Novels -

- A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - Douglas Adams
- What If It's Us - Becky Albertalli
- Feed Matthew - Tobin Anderson
- War Dances - Sherman Alexie
- In the Time of Butterflies - Julia Alvarez
- Speak - Laurie Halse Anderson
- 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
- 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
- Chango's Fire - Ernesto Quinonez
- dayliGht - Roya Marsh
- The Alchemist, The Pilgrimage - Paulo Coelho
- Troll Hunters: Tales of Arcadia Series - Guillermo del Toro and Richard Hamilton
- Ugly Series - Scott Westerfeld

Narrative Nonfiction -

- 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
- 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