Science Skills Center High School

Grade 9 English Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Parent/Guardians and Rising Freshmen Scholars,


We want to ensure that you continue to enjoy your reading lives and become even more amazing readers in the world! In order to do that, students should use their summer to explore new, exciting texts!

Looking forward to talking with you about your summer reading on the first day of school!

Sincerely,

The English Department
Science Skills Center High School

9th-GRAGE ENGLISH SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Essential Question for 9th-grade English: What do I think the world should be? What are my dreams for the world?

This year we will read and write about characters that have strong beliefs. We will discuss and reflect on their choices as they attempt to be themselves in their world that is constantly trying to make them into something else. This summer reading assignment will ignite your thinking on these issues.

Overall Assignment

1. Read 1 book from the list AND at least 2 books of ~250 pages (or more) each. (Note that this is a total of at least 3 books!)
2. Complete one typed written assignment from the “Writing Menu” for each book. (Note that this is a total of 3 writing assignments!)
Writing Menu
For each of the books you read (minimum of 3), complete one of the following typed writing assignments. Each assignment should be approximately 200-300 words, or 2-3 good-sized paragraphs. Make sure to label each of your assignments with the title and author of the book!

DUE Date: All written assignments are handed in on paper, typed, on the first day you arrive to school. Students must bring in a signed letter from parents.

1. Type a letter to one of the major characters of the book. Tell him/her what you respect or do not respect about them or their actions.

2. Write a diary entry from the perspective of the main character (pretend you are him/her). Your diary entry should be about what you believe to be the most important event that happens to the character in the book.

3. Write the transcript of an interview with the main character (protagonist), a supporting character or antagonist, and an interviewer. The interviewer can be you, or a real-life talk show host (Oprah, Tyra, Steve Harvey, Ellen DeGeneres, Michael Fallen, Seth Myers) or another fictional character. *This option should be at least 1 full page*

4. Write a review of the book in the format of a book review. (See New York Youth Connections online has sample book reviews)

5. Pop-up popcorn - Choose a significant quote and discuss its meaning.

Typing Format
- Use 12-point Times New Roman Font.
- Type double spaced (single spaced for option # 3)
- Use the heading below:

Your First and Last Name
Summer Reading
Grade 9
Date

Science Skills Summer Reading Choices and Book Talks
9th Grade Book List

List of Titles (Choose two from this list)

Science Fiction/Fantasy

1984 by George Orwell- A nightmarish vision in 1949 of the world we were becoming. It is a dystopia, or "negative utopia."

Feed by MT Anderson- This satire offers a thought-provoking and scathing indictment that may prod readers to examine the more sinister possibilities of corporate- and mediadominated culture.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley is a classic science fiction work that continues to be a significant warning to our society today.

Catch 22 by Joseph Heller-- presents a classic edition of the 1961 satire of military bureaucracy, focusing on the story of John Yossarian, a bombardier in World War II who is trying to avoid getting killed while at the same time dealing with a colonel who keeps upping the number of missions he must fly.

Realistic Fiction/Fiction

Carry On by Rainbow Rowell is a ghost story, a love story and a mystery. It has just as much kissing and talking as you’d expect from a Rainbow Rowell story - but far, far more monsters.

I Am J by Cris Beam- J, who feels that he is a boy who was mistakenly born a girl, hides who he is from his family and the world, but after he loses his best friend, J decides to stop hiding, whatever the cost.

Flight by Sherman Alexie- What happens when fantasy and the real world merge into a singular universe.

The Burn Journals by Brent Runyon- A memoir about a boy who fantasizes about killing himself and almost succeeds. It is his story about regret and what can happen in a moment of anguish.

*Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a courageous, world-class novel about independence, integrity, community, and love and what it takes to become a "full human being."
*All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely- In this Coretta Scott King Honor Award–winning novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

*Gabi: A Girl in Pieces* by Isabel Quintero- Gabi Hernandez chronicles her last year in high school in her diary: college applications, Cindy’s pregnancy, Sebastian’s coming out, the cute boys, her father’s meth habit, and the food she craves. And best of all, the poetry that helps forge her identity.

*Cuckoo’s Calling* by JK Rowling (Robert Galbraith)- You may think you know detectives, but you’ve never met one quite like strike. You may think you know about the wealthy and famous, but you’ve never seen them under an investigation like this.

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz- Through this friendship that Aristotle and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

**Nonfiction**

*The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights* by Steve Sheinkin-- This is a fascinating story of the prejudice that faced black men and women in America’s armed forces during World War II, and a nuanced look at those who gave their lives in service of a country where they lacked the most basic rights.

*Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines* by Paul Fleischman-- We’re living in an Ah-Ha moment. Take 250 years of human ingenuity. Add abundant fossil fuels. The result: a population and lifestyle never before seen. The downsides weren’t visible for centuries, but now they are. Suddenly everything needs rethinking – suburbs, cars, fast food, cheap prices. It’s a changed world.

*Just Like Us* by Helen Thorpe--*Just Like Us* tells the story of four high school students whose parents entered this country illegally from Mexico. We meet the girls on the eve of their senior prom in Denver, Colorado. All four of the girls have grown up in the United States, and all four want to live the American dream, but only two have documents.

*I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* by Malala Yousafzai--*I AM MALALA* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls’ education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

*Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town* by Warren St. John--This young people’s edition is a complex and inspirational story about the
Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh.

*Transgender Lives: Complex Stories, Complex Voices* by Kirstin Cronn Mills-- Meet Katie, Hayden, Dean, Brooke, David, Julia, and Natasha. Each is transgender, and in this book, they share their personal stories.

**New York Public Library’s Summer Reading List (which you can also choose from and should be easily available from every library branch)**

*Greatest Zombie Movie Ever* by Jeff Strand: Justin struggles to turn a bad script, dream girl, and no budget into film success.

*Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli: A classmate threatens to out Simon and his profoundly private online boyfriend.

*Scorpion Rules* by Erin Bow: Greta questions her role as a Child of Peace and the artificial intelligence that uses hostages to maintain world order.

*Dumplin’* by Julie Murphy: Self-proclaimed fat girl Willowdean reclaims her confidence with her misfit friends when she enters her Texas town’s beauty pageant.

*Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby: Finn was the only person to see Roza’s abduction, but no one believes him.

*Tiny Pretty Things* by Sona Charaipotra & Dhonielle Clayton: Ballerinas backstab, sacrifice, and manipulate to be the best.

*Otherbound* by Corinne Duyvis: When Nolan closes his eyes he is drawn into Amara’s mind and her dangerous world.

*Charlie, Presumed Dead* by Anne Heltzel: Two girls discover Charlie’s betrayal at his funeral and together search for answers.

*X: A Novel* by Illyasah Shabazz & Kekla Magoon: The story of how Malcolm Little became Malcolm X.

*Beyond Magenta* by Susan Kuklin: Six candid glimpses into the lives of transgender and gendernonconforming teens.

*Diary of a Tokyo Teen* by Christine Mari Inzer: A Japanese-American girl travels to the land of trendy fashion, high-tech toilets and mai
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