



2018 High School Summer Reading Rising Grades 9 - 12

Plainfield Public School District

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Students entering grades nine through twelve must read at least **two** books over the summer.

- Choose two books based on your personal interests, parent or teacher recommendations, and reading ability. You may use the recommended reading list for additional ideas.
- For each book, complete one of the options listed below.

NOTE: AP English students should follow guidelines on separate documents.

NOTE: Rising ninth graders will read *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone, provided by your 8th grade ELA teacher, and complete the assignment explained on the accompanying letter.

Option 1: Literary Essay (fiction) - Select one of the topics listed below:

- Character analysis (Select one):
 - Write an essay in which you analyze how the main character's thoughts and actions reveal aspects of his/her personality. As part of your analysis, consider how the character reacts to events in the story and include strong textual evidence to support your ideas.
 - Write an essay in which you analyze and compare two important characters. Show how each character's thoughts and actions reveal aspects of their personalities. Be sure to consider how the characters react to events in the text, and use evidence to support your analysis.
- Thematic analysis: Write an essay in which you analyze an important theme found in the story. Trace the development of the theme throughout the text. Explain in detail how the theme is revealed and how it is shaped and refined through specific details.

Option 2: Book Review (non-fiction) -Write a one-page summary of the book explaining the main idea of the text. Add a personal response in which you reflect on the author's point of view and connect it to your own experiences, knowledge, or beliefs.

Option 3: Video Project (3 - 7 minutes) - Create a video that might encourage another student to read the book. The video could take the form of a movie trailer, report, Q & A, "author" interview, or another format of your choosing. It should provide viewers with information about the main ideas or themes of the book, the important characters, and the main conflict of the story. Be sure to provide important details that illustrate what the book is about.



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RECOMMENDED READING LIST

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***The Impossible Knife of Memory***. Viking, 2014. Hayley and her father, Andy, have been on the road for five years, moving from place to place. Andy struggles with the PTSD he has suffered since returning from Iraq. Now they are back in the town where he grew up, hoping to have a normal life. Hayley might even be able to have a relationship with Finn, who clearly likes her, but is hiding secrets of his own.
- Anderson, M. T. ***Feed***. Candlewick Press, 2002. In a future world where internet connections feed directly into the consumer's brain, thought is supplemented by advertising banners, and language has gone into a steep decline, a little love story unfolds. Titus, an average kid on a weekend trip to the moon, meets Violet, a brainy girl who has decided to try to fight the feed. Assaulted by a hacker who interrupts their connection, they struggle to understand what has happened to them – and to everyone around them.
- Atwood, Margaret. ***The Handmaid's Tale*** (1986). Anchor, 1998. It is the world of the near future, and Offred is a Handmaid in the home of the Commander and his wife. She is allowed out once a day to the food market, she is not permitted to read, and she is hoping to become pregnant, because she is only valued if her ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the years before, when she was an independent woman, had a job of her own, a husband and child. But all of that is gone now...everything has changed.
- Bertozzi, Nick. ***Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey***. (Graphic Novel). First Second Books, 2014. Can Ernest Shackleton and his crew brave the icy wilderness and become the first to reach the South Pole?
- Chbosky, Stephen. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***. MTV Books/Pocket Books, 1999. In this controversial, coming-of-age novel, Charlie's collection of letters to an unspecified recipient details the humorous trials and tribulations of trying to discover who he is and who he might become.
- de la Peña, Matt. ***The Living***. Delacorte, 2013. While Shy is working on a cruise ship, a massive earthquake hits California and sends a tsunami out to sea with disastrous consequences. What started out as a fun, summer job suddenly becomes a fight to survive.
- Doctorow, Cory. ***Pirate Cinema***. Tor Books, 2012. Trent McCauley is sixteen, brilliant, and obsessed with one thing: making movies on his computer by reassembling footage from popular films he downloads from the Net. In the



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dystopian near-future Britain where Trent is growing up, this is more illegal than ever; the punishment for being caught three times is that your entire household's access to the Internet is cut off for a year, with no appeal. Trent thinks he is too clever for that to happen - except it does, and it nearly destroys his family. Shamed and shattered, Trent runs away to London, where he slowly learns the ways of staying alive on the streets.

Flake, Sharon G. ***Who Am I without Him?*** Hyperion, 2007. This collection of ten short stories explores the universal themes of teenage emotional growing pains. Some are humorous, others are painful; all are thought-provoking.

Gladwell, Malcolm. ***The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference.*** Back Bay Books, 2002. The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate.

Luen Yang, Gene. ***The Shadow Hero.*** (Graphic Novel). First Second, 2014. When gangsters threaten his family in 1930s Chinatown, Hank Chu fights back by becoming a new hero.

Luttrell, Marcus. ***Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10.*** Little, Brown, 2007. American Navy SEAL and team leader Marcus Luttrell tells his story of the loss of his teammates in July 2005 along the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border to al-Qaida insurgents.

Moore, Wes. ***The Other Wes Moore.*** Random House, 2010. Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

Paton, Alan. ***Cry, the Beloved Country*** (1948). Scribner, 2003. This impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law in South Africa tells the deeply moving story of Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of racial injustice. It is a classic work of love and



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hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

Shabazz, Ilyasah. ***X: A Novel***. Candlewick, 2015. Co-written by Malcolm X's daughter, this riveting and revealing novel follows the formative years of the man whose words and actions shook the world. X follows Malcolm from his childhood to his imprisonment for theft at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him to forge a new path and command a voice that still resonates today.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Port Chicago 50***. Roaring Brook Press, 2014. On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks, critically injuring off-duty men in their bunks, and shattering windows up to a mile away. On August 9th, 244 men refused to go back to work until unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. When the dust settled, fifty were charged with mutiny, facing decades in jail and even execution.

Tougias, Michael J. and Casey Sherman. ***The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue***. Scribner, 2010. In the winter of 1952, New England was battered by the most brutal nor'easter in years. As the storm raged, two oil tankers split in two, leaving dozens of men on board at the mercy of the churning Atlantic. This is the true story of the valiant attempt to rescue the souls huddling inside the broken halves of the two ships.

Volponi, Paul. ***Game Seven***. Viking, 2015. Since he was ten, Julio has lived in the shadow of his famous father. Not just because Julio Senior is a pitcher for the Miami Marlins, but because he fled Cuba to play professional baseball, leaving his Julio and his mother and sister branded as the family of a traitor. Now sixteen, Julio dreams of playing for Cuba's national team—until he finds out his father's defection may destroy his chances.

Wein, Elizabeth. ***Code Name Verity***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. In WWII Britain, one girl becomes a pilot, another a spy. What happens next will test the limits of their heroism—and their friendship.

Weir, Andy. ***The Martian***. Crown/Archetype, 2014. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, astronaut Mark Watney finds himself stranded and completely alone on Mars with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills—and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit—he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?



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LIST OF RECOMMENDED AUTHORS/SERIES

Austen, Jane	<i>Emma, Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility</i>
Crichton, Michael	<i>The Andromeda Strain, Jurassic Park</i>
Diaz, Junot	<i>Drown, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>
Gaines, Ernest J.	<i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, A Lesson before Dying, A Gathering of Old Men</i>
Green, John	<i>The Fault in Our Stars, Looking for Alaska</i>
Hurston, Zora Neale	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
King, Stephen	<i>The Shining, Misery, 11/22/63, The Dark Tower (series), The Green Mile (series)</i>
Kirkman, Robert	<i>The Walking Dead (series)</i>
Larson, Erik	<i>Devil in the White City, Thunderstruck</i>
Morrison, Toni	<i>Beloved, The Bluest Eye, Song of Solomon</i>
Tan, Amy	<i>The Joy Luck Club, Saving Fish from Drowning</i>
Vonnegut, Kurt	<i>Slaughterhouse-Five, Breakfast of Champions</i>
Wright, Richard	<i>Black Boy, Native Son</i>

Your teachers may also recommend other titles and authors, based on their knowledge of your interests.