

English 9-1

Summer Reading 2017

BOOK SELECTION: Over the summer, each incoming freshman student enrolled in 9-1 must read two novels from a list of former Nutmeg Award nominees and Printz winners. Please turn this page over for the full list.

The Nutmeg Book Award encourages students to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of nominated titles. Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, the Nutmeg Committee is comprised of children's librarians, school library media specialists, and student representatives.

The Michael L. Printz Award annually honors the best book written for teens, based entirely on its literary merit, each year.

Parents should review the descriptions of the novels to ensure that they are suitable for their child. If parents have further questions as to the suitability of a text for their child, they are encouraged to call Sara Ray, Teen Services Librarian at Simsbury Public Library; or Nilda Irizarry, English Supervisor at Simsbury High School. Sara and Nilda are happy to help students and parents make the choice best for them. Sara Ray can be reached at sarar@simsburylibrary.info or 860-658-7663 ext 2118; Nilda Irizarry can be reached at nirizarry@simsbury.k12.ct.us.

WRITTEN RESPONSES: For each prompt below, respond in one well-written and well-organized paragraph. You MUST save the two separate paragraphs in one file or document. You must use one novel to address Prompt 1, and a different novel to address Prompt 2. *Using the same novel to answer both prompts will result in a reduction of points.*

1. Explain how a character develops during the course of the novel. Provide details and descriptions to illustrate that character's development or lack of development.
2. Explain one main idea or theme of the novel. Provide details from several places in the novel to support this idea or theme.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: In the first class, each student must have access to an electronic copy of his or her responses. Students will set up an account on Turnitin.com (a database used to prevent plagiarism) and submit their responses. For the first few classes, students will have conversations and complete exercises that center on their summer reading.

Freshmen Summer Reading List

***Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman¹** Caden Bosch is a brilliant student until his mind splits between his everyday life and delusions that place him on a sailing ship headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, in the Marianas trench. Shusterman uses artwork and experiences from his own son's struggles with mental illness to give readers a glimpse into the darkness of schizophrenia.

***Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein¹** A plane goes down in Nazi-occupied France. Two British girls, one a pilot and the other a spy, fight for survival. Code Name Verity is a story of loyalty, courage, and friendship set amid the backdrop of World War II.

***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson²** Once inseparable, twins Noah and Jude are torn apart by a family tragedy that transforms their intense love for each other into intense anger. Timelines twist and turn around each other in beautifully orchestrated stories of love and longing.

***Jackaby* by William Ritter¹** A blend of Sherlock and Doctor Who, with a detective who can see what no one else can, and his newest assistant, Abigail, who has a knack for noticing details. In their first case together, a serial killer is on the loose in 19th-century New Fiddleham, and Jackaby suspects a supernatural villain.

***Midwinterblood* by Marcus Sedgwick²** Doomed love circles back through the centuries in a series of seven intricately plotted, interlocking stories set on a mysterious, isolated island. Forgetting and remembering, blessed and cursed, modern and ancient, these dualities brilliantly infuse the novel's lush landscape.

***Mosquitoland* by David Arnold¹** Mim was dragged from her home in Ohio to the "wastelands" of Mississippi to live with her father and stepmother, but before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back home. Mim hops aboard a bus to Cleveland on a journey full of unexpected twists and turns, forcing her to redefine her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

***Out of Nowhere* by Maria Padian¹** Soccer captain and high school senior, Tom Bouchard can do no wrong—until he does. Out of nowhere, a night of shenanigans with his best friend changes everything. His once middle-of-the-road existence takes one messy turn after another. Facing the consequences of his actions leads him to finally see the struggles of his best friend's addiction, his girlfriend's bigotry, and the plight of the new Somali immigrants who have flooded his small Maine town. Now he must choose a side as tension rises among his family, his town, and his heart.

***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline¹** In 2044, real life is so miserable that everyone lives in OASIS, the virtual reality created by James Halliday. When Halliday died, he left a massive puzzle built into OASIS: solve the puzzle and you inherit his fortune. Enter Wade Wyatt, the 18-year-old gamer who solves part one first—and winds up with a bull's-eye on his back. He's got to solve the rest of the puzzle before he's taken out of the game—permanently.

¹Blurb Source: <http://www.nutmegaward.org>

²Blurb Source: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/printz-award>