

9th Grade Summer Reading Books

A Lesson Before Dying by Earnest J. Gaines

http://cdcorps.org/ebooks/A%20Lesson%20Before%20Dying_Ernest%20J.%20GAINES.pdf

A Lesson Before Dying is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting and defying the expected. Ernest J. Gaines brings to this novel the same rich sense of place, the same deep understanding of the human psyche, and the same compassion for a people and their struggle that have informed his previous, highly praised works of fiction.

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

<https://novel12.com/254357/the-bean-trees.htm>

Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in apparently empty places.

Bad Boy by Walter Dean Myers

<http://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/26019/Bad-Boy-by-Walter-Dean-Myers.pdf>

As a boy, Myers was quick-tempered and physically strong, always ready for a fight. He also read voraciously—he would check out books from the library and carry them home, hidden in brown paper bags in order to avoid other boys' teasing. He aspired to be a writer.

But while growing up in a poor family in Harlem, his hope for a successful future diminished as he came to realize fully the class and racial struggles that surrounded him. He began to doubt himself and the values that he had always relied on, attending high school less and less, turning to the streets and to his books for comfort.

10th Grade Summer Reading Books

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

http://www.bestfree-book.net/Romance/fallen_angels.html

Seventeen year old Richie Perry has just graduated from high school. There's no way he can afford college, and the streets are just too hard. So he signs up for the army and gets shipped off to Vietnam. In a battlefield jungle where every move can mean the difference between life and death, he meets Peewee, Lobel, Johnson, and Brunner. They're all here for different reasons, but now they share a single dream-getting out alive.

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

<https://sites.google.com/a/hammondacademy.org/latiker-english/home/contemporary-studies/speaknovelpdf>

"Speak up for yourself--we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication. In Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself.

House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

<http://nlcphs.net/SummerReadings/Freshmen/HouseOnMango.pdf>

The House on Mango Street is a collection of mini stories wrapped around a Latin-girl's view of her neighborhood and neighbors. Esperanza hates her name, it's hope in English but has too many letters in Spanish. She is named after her free-spirited Grandmother, and lives with her parents and two brothers and one sister. Esperanza has moved every year to a new rental. Her parents always talk of owning their own home, and what it would be like. They finally move to Mango Street and don't have to bother with landlords banging on the ceiling or floor, and they don't have to share space. It definitely isn't the home of their dreams, but even when Esperanza leaves this street, she will always remember the roots it gave her.

11th Grade Summer Reading List (AP MUST CHOOSE TWO!)

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

http://nisbah.com/summer_reading/ff_mice_and_men_steinbeck.pdf

Two migrant workers, [George](#) and [Lennie](#), have been let off a bus miles away from the California farm where they are due to start work. George is a small, dark man with “sharp, strong features.” Lennie, his companion, is his opposite, a giant of a man with a “shapeless” face. Overcome with thirst, the two stop in a clearing by a pool and decide to camp for the night. As the two converse, it becomes clear that Lennie has a mild mental disability, and is deeply devoted to George and dependent upon him for protection and guidance. George finds that Lennie, who loves petting soft things but often accidentally kills them, has been carrying and stroking a dead mouse. George angrily throws it away, fearing that Lennie might catch a disease from the dead animal. George complains loudly that his life would be easier without having to care for Lennie, but the reader senses that their friendship and devotion is mutual. He and Lennie share a dream of buying their own piece of land, farming it, and, much to Lennie’s delight, keeping rabbits. George ends the night by treating Lennie to the story he often tells him about what life will be like in such an idyllic place.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/Fitzgerald/gatsby/cover.html>

The protagonist, Jay Gatsby, is involved in illegal activities, including bootlegging, or selling liquor during prohibition, when liquor sales are illegal in the United States. He throws lavish parties and eventually meets and begins an affair with his beloved Daisy. Daisy’s husband, Tom, is carrying on an affair with a garage owner’s wife; a woman named Myrtle Wilson. Driving home from New York, Daisy strikes and kills Myrtle while driving Gatsby’s car. She is unaware that she has killed her husband’s mistress and leaves the scene of the crime. Myrtle’s husband is despondent and tries to find his wife’s killer. Daisy’s husband, Tom, directs him to Gatsby’s house, where he shoots and kills Gatsby, and then himself, thus resolving Daisy’s affair.

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

http://www.amelia.provo.edu/Site_School/0022/Uglies_online_text.pdf

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can’t wait. In just a few weeks she’ll have the operation that will turn her from a repellent ugly into a stunning pretty. And as a pretty, she’ll be catapulted into a high-tech paradise where her only job is to have fun. But Tally’s new friend Shay isn’t sure she wants to become a pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world-- and it isn’t very pretty. The authorities offer Tally a choice: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. Tally’s choice will change her world forever...

12th Grade Summer Reading List

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

<https://www.svsd410.org/cms/lib/WA01919490/Centricity/Domain/536/451-entire%20book.pdf>

Ray Bradbury's internationally acclaimed novel *Fahrenheit 451* is a masterwork of twentieth-century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future.

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television. When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

<https://100vampire-novels.com/pdf-novels/the-color-purple-by-alice-walker-free>

The novel focuses upon the growth and development of a girl named Celie. Raped at 14 by her own father and then forced into a marriage with a cruel older man, Celie learns to be quiet and submissive. The person she cares most about, her sister Nettie, is forced out of her own home and kicked out of Celie's home by her husband, Mr. _____. Mr. _____ had married Celie so that she could take care of his children and work for him, since he is already in love with Shug Avery.

The Selection by Kiera Cass

<http://1novels.com/244112-the-selection.html>

For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. To be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels. To live in a palace and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her. Leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown she doesn't want. Living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks. Then America meets Prince Maxon. Gradually, she starts to question all the plans she's made for herself—and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.