

9th Grade Summer Reading

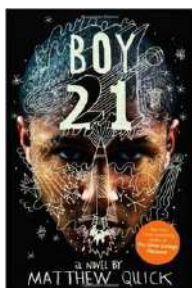
The George Washington High School English Department has decided to continue offering student choice for the 2024 Summer Reading Program. This summer, students will select one book from the list, read the book, and then complete an assignment that demonstrates what they took away from their chosen work. The list that follows is designed to offer students a broad range of reading experiences that represent a variety of genres and cover topics of current interest to high school students. With this approach, we hope to see all students find a book they can be excited to read as they enjoy the leisure time that summer provides.

The attached book list has Amazon links attached to each entry for easy purchase. Any student unable to access one of the books on our list should reach out to Mr. Justin Valleau or Ms. Kristi Thornton via the email addresses below.

jvalleau@mail.kana.k12.wv.us (Honors English 9) OR kthornton@mail.kana.k12.wv.us (English 9)

Parents/Guardians: The following books vary in terms of content, message, language, and maturity level. Please guide your student in selecting a book that you feel is both beneficial and appropriate. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to find a book that fits these criteria, please email one of the above teachers. They will be happy to help you find an alternative solution.

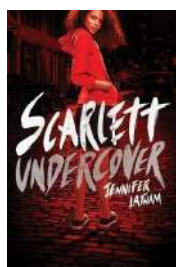
Students entering 9th Grade may select from the following list of books:



***Boy 21* by Matthew Quick; Genre: Fiction**

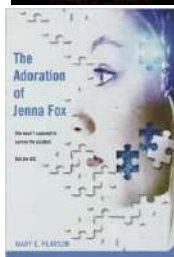
Basketball has always been an escape for Finley. He lives in broken-down Bellmont, a town ruled by the Irish mob, drugs, violence, and racially charged rivalries. At home, his dad works nights, and Finley is left to take care of his disabled grandfather alone. He's always dreamed of getting out someday, but until he can, putting on that number 21 jersey makes everything seem okay. Russ has just moved to the neighborhood, and the life of this teen basketball phenom has been turned upside down by tragedy. Cut off from everyone he knows, he won't pick up a basketball, but answers only to the name Boy21—taken from his former jersey number. As their final year of high school brings these two boys together, a unique friendship may turn out to be the answer they both need.

Order Here: amzn.to/3ndaSdW



***Scarlett Undercover* by Jennifer Latham; Genre: Historical Fiction**

Meet Scarlett, a smart, sarcastic, kick-butt, Muslim American heroine, ready to take on crime in her hometown of Las Almas. When a new case finds the private eye caught up in a centuries-old battle of evil genies and ancient curses, Scarlett discovers that her own family secrets may have more to do with the situation than she thinks -- and that cracking the case could lead to solving her father's murder. Jennifer Latham delivers a compelling story and a character to remember in this one-of-a-kind debut novel. Order Here: amzn.to/3na260q



***The Adoration of Jenna Fox* by Mary E. Pearson; Genre: Science Fiction**

Who is Jenna Fox? Seventeen-year-old Jenna has been told that is her name. She has just awoken from a coma, they tell her, and she is still recovering from a terrible accident in which she was involved a year ago. But what happened before that? Jenna doesn't remember her life. Or does she? And are the memories really hers? This fascinating novel represents a stunning new direction for acclaimed author Mary Pearson. Set in a near future America, it takes readers on an unforgettable journey through questions of bio-medical ethics and the nature of humanity. Mary Pearson's vividly drawn characters and masterful writing soar to a new level of sophistication. *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. Order Here: amzn.to/3guAKRt



***Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines* by Paul Fleischman**

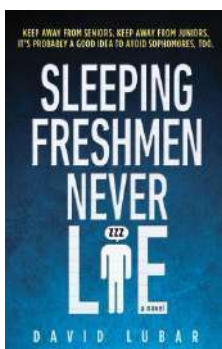
Genre: Nonfiction

Paul Fleischman offers teens an environmental wake-up call and a tool kit for decoding the barrage of conflicting information confronting them. 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. This book explains it. Not with isolated facts, but the principles driving attitudes and events, from vested interests to denial to big-country syndrome. Because money is as important as molecules in the environment, science is joined with politics, history, and psychology to provide the briefing needed to comprehend the 21st century. Order Here: amzn.to/2RUHqOy



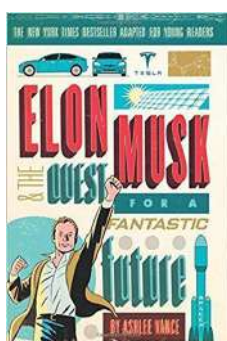
***Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo; Genre: Fantasy**

Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price--and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone...A convict with a thirst for revenge. A sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager. A runaway with a privileged past. A spy known as the Wraith. A Heartreder using her magic to survive the slums. A thief with a gift for unlikely escapes. Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first. Order Here: amzn.to/3sI2jcu



***Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar; Genre: Comedy**

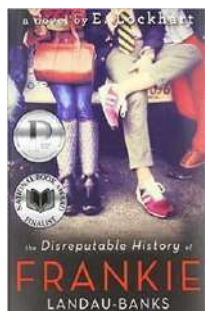
Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Meanwhile, he's trying his best to capture the attention of Julia, the freshman goddess. In the process, Scott manages to become involved in nearly everything the school has to offer. So while he tries to find his place in the confusing world of high school, win Julia's heart, and keep his sanity, Scott will be recording all the details for his siblings—and your—enjoyment. Order Here: amzn.to/3xguxlg



***Elon Musk and the Quest for the Fantastic Future* by Ashlee Vance; Genre: Biography**

There are few people in history who could match Elon Musk's relentless drive and vision. A modern combination of famous inventors and industrialists like Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Steve Jobs, Elon is the man behind companies such as SpaceX, Tesla Motors, Solar City, and PayPal that are transforming the way we live. Written with exclusive access to Elon, his family, and his friends, this book traces Elon's journey from a kid in South Africa to a young man in the United States, his dramatic technical inventions, and his world-changing companies. Elon has sparked new levels of innovation in the world, and this book gives young readers a detailed but fast-paced look at his story.

Order Here: amzn.to/3azidzH



***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart; Genre: Young Adult Fiction**

Over the course of one summer, Frankie Landau-Banks, a somewhat geeky girl with an unassuming nature, has developed into a 15-year-old with an attention-grabbing figure, a new attitude, and sights set on making changes at her elite boarding school in this novel. The teenager also has a new boyfriend, a gorgeous senior who belongs to a long-standing secret society on campus—the Loyal Order of the Basset Hounds, known mostly for silly pranks and a history of male-only membership. With a witty, sharp, and intelligently scheming mind, Frankie manipulates the Loyal Order to do her bidding with pranks meant to make a political statement about the male-dominated and classist nature of the school. Order here: amzn.to/2Qmrx2M

2024 Summer Reading Assignment - 9th Grade

All GWHS students will choose one book from the summer reading list and complete the dialectical journal chart.

Definition: A dialectic is “discussion and reasoning by dialogue as a method of intellectual investigation.” Philosophers like Socrates loved this type of investigation because it stimulated critical thinking and often led to the revelation of truth. However, instead of engaging in this type of exchange with another person, you will create one between the text you are reading and your thoughts.

Importance: A dialectical journal will help you think critically about what you read and form interpretations of the text on your own. It will aid in your development as a close reader and supply you with insightful questions and comments to raise during class discussions and while writing essays.

How it works:

~ English 9 Students: Complete one journal entry per category (i.e. 1 for plot structure, 1 for characterization...)

~ Honors English 9 Students: Complete two journal entries per category (i.e. 2 for plot structure, 2 for characterization...)

1. Make a table/chart (see example) with three columns: CATEGORY/CHAPTER/PAGE, TEXT, and COMMENTS as the headings.
2. Copy direct quotations and paraphrased sections from the text as you read in the “Text” column on the left. Be sure to include the chapter and page number of each quotation or paraphrase in the space provided.
3. Comment on each quotation in the column on the right and explain how it exemplifies the term provided.

Dialectical Journal Categories

1. **PLOT STRUCTURE**: you recognize important elements of the plot, or perhaps the fact that the author has rearranged the traditional plot structure for a particular effect, or perhaps has used foreshadowing to hint at events to come
2. **CHARACTERIZATION**: you notice dialogue, narration, and/or descriptions that both directly or indirectly help to develop a character’s personality and/or motivation
3. **SETTING**: you notice details about the setting that impact the mood, characters, and/or theme
4. **SYMBOLS**: you notice the underlying meaning in symbolic items, relationships, speech, and actions throughout the novel; interpret the “ideas” behind the “things”
5. **COMPARISONS**: you notice metaphors, similes, and/or allusions that convey ideas about theme, characters, plot, etc.
6. **QUESTIONS**: something puzzles you or confuses you
7. **JUDGMENTS**: you agree with an observation or idea
8. **JUDGMENTS**: you disagree with an observation or idea
9. **PERSONAL CONNECTIONS**: circumstances or issues are especially relevant to your life (past or present) or the lives of others you know
10. **WORLDLY CONNECTIONS**: circumstances or issues are especially relevant to something in history, art, pop- culture, science, current events in the news, etc.

Scoring of Dialectical Journal

A- Range: Detailed quotation selections. Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the text; avoids clichés. Includes comments about literary devices and how each contributes to the meaning of the text. Makes an insightful personal connection and asks thought-provoking, insightful questions. The coverage of the text is thorough. Journal is neat and organized.

B- Range: Less detailed, but good quote selections. Some intelligent commentary; addresses some thematic connections. Includes little of how literary devices contribute to the meaning. Some personal connection; asks pertinent questions. Adequately addresses all parts of the reading assignment. Journal is neat and readable.

C- Range: Few good details from the text. Most of the commentary is vague, unsupported, or plot summary/paraphrased. No discussion on the meaning of literary devices. Limited personal connection; or obvious question. Addresses most of the reading assignment but is not very long or thorough. Journal is relatively neat but may be difficult to read. No page numbers.

D or F Range: Hardly any good details from the text. All notes are plot summaries or paraphrases. Few literary elements, and virtually no discussion on meaning. Limited personal connection, no good question. Limited coverage of the text; way too short. Difficult to read or follow. No page numbers.

F: Journal is not turned in on the date of collection.

Example Dialectical Journal Format

Please note: this example includes three of the ten and is not complete;
yours will have all categories, one time each for English 9 and two times each for Honors English 9

CATEGORY / CHAPTER / PAGE	TEXT	COMMENTS
SETTING / Chapter 1 / Pages 2-3	“A few miles south of Soledad, the Salinas River drops in close to the hillside bank and runs deep and green. The water is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the yellow sands before reaching the narrow pool. On one side of the river the golden foothill slopes curve up to the strong and rocky Gabilan mountains, but on the valley side the water is lined with trees.”	Steinbeck uses imagery to open the novel with a description of the surroundings. The Gabilan Mountains position the story on the Pacific Coast of California. In turn, the reader can infer that the climate is hot and dry.
QUESTION / Chapter 3 / Page 58	“Sure, we’d have a little house an’ a room to our self. Little fat iron stove, an’ in the winter we’d keep a fire goin’ in it. It ain’t enough land so we’d have to work too hard. Maybe six, seven hours a day. We wouldn’t have to buck no barley eleven hours a day. An’ when we put in a crop, why, we’d be there to take the crop up. We’d know what come of our planting.”	Why is it so important to Lennie and George to own their own farm? In times of economic struggle, like what they were going through in the Great Depression, would they even be able to afford it? Is this a realistic dream?
JUDGEMENT / Chapter 8 / Page 106	George, standing behind Lennie, raises a gun to his head and shoots him. Lennie is instantly killed by his best friend. (106)	In my opinion, George shooting Lennie is justified. Although Lennie committed murder, Curly stated that he wanted to be the one to take Lennie’s life. Based on this comment, I do not believe he would have had the opportunity to be tried in court but instead, be brutally tortured.