

Alexander Hamilton High School

Summer Reading List: Students Entering Grade 9



In an effort to foster an appreciation of reading and to adhere to the Common Core Standards, the English department requires each student to complete a yearly summer-reading project. **In addition to any books you would like to read on your own this summer, please choose ONE work of literature from the appropriate grade-level list below.** We strongly encourage you to choose a book that you would like to discuss with a friend or a group as you read. Do not worry about any notes over the summer. Upon your return in September, you will be asked to discuss your book. We want you to read for the fun of reading!

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Rot & Ruin (or any book in the series)

By **Jonathan Maberry**

In the zombie-infested, post-apocalyptic America where Benny Imura lives, every teenager must find a job by the time they turn fifteen or get their rations cut in half. Benny doesn't want to apprentice as a zombie hunter with his boring older brother Tom, but he has no choice. He expects a tedious job whacking zoms for cash, but what he gets is a vocation that will teach him what it means to be human. (Other books in the series: *Dust & Decay*, *Flesh & Bone*, and *Fire & Ash*)

Unwind (or any book in the series)

By **Neal Shusterman**

In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would "unwind" them. (Other books in series: *Unwholly* and *Unsouled*)

The Hobbit

By **J.R.R. Tolkien**

Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon.

Jane Eyre

By **Charlotte Bronte**

This romantic classic tells the story of an unhappy orphan and her adult life as a governess working for the mysterious Mr. Rochester.

Turtles All the Way Down

By **John Green**

John Green, the bestselling author of *The Fault in Our Stars*, is back. His new novel, *Turtles All the Way Down*, is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an unexpected reunion. At its heart is Aza Holmes, a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

The Fault in Our Stars

By **John Green**

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal. Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. (If you have read this book and enjoyed it, definitely try *Paper Towns* and/or *An Abundance of Katherines*)

The War of the Worlds

By **H. G. Wells**

Martians invade Earth in this classic science fiction work.

Red Rising

By **Pierce Brown**

Darrow is a miner and a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he digs all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of the planet livable for future generations. Darrow has never seen the sky. Yet he spends his life willingly, knowing that his blood and sweat will one day result in a better future for his children. But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed... (Other books in the trilogy: *Golden Sun* and *Morning Star*)

Go Ask Alice

By **Anonymous**

A fifteen-year-old chronicles her experience abusing drugs.

Crank (or any other book in the series)

By **Ellen Hopkins**

Entirely written in poetry, this "novel" is a "masterpiece[] of word, shape, and pacing... a stunning portrayal of a teen's loss of direction." Therefore, if you enjoy poetry and are drawn in by tragedy, this title is for you. Also a quick read. (Other books in the series: *Glass*, *Burned*, *Identical*, *Impulse*, and *Tricks*)

Eleanor and Park and/or ***Fangirl***

By **Rainbow Rowell**

Both books are awesome! *Eleanor and Park* focuses upon the relationship between two high school outsiders and their struggles to connect, while *Fangirl* tells the tale of a socially inept girl just beginning college who must grapple with being apart from her twin sister for the first time and the demands of growing up.

City of Bones (or the awesome prequel trilogy: *Clockwork Angel*, *Clockwork Prince*, and *Clockwork Princess*)

By **Cassandra Clare**

When fifteen-year-old Clary Fray heads out to a Club in New York City, she witnesses a murder. Then the body disappears into thin air.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

By **Stephen Chbosky**

A story about what it's like to travel through the world of first dates, family dramas, and new friends.

Divergent (or any book in the trilogy)

By **Veronica Roth**

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue. Which one will she choose?

Ready Player One

By **Ernest Cline**

Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes his grim surroundings by spending his waking hours jacked into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia that lets him be anything he wants to be, a place where he can live and play and fall in love on any of ten thousand planets.