

Suggested Reading 9th Grade

Author: Naomi Shihab Nye

Title: 19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East

Description: This volume collects for the first time all of Nye's poems about the Middle East, peace, and being an Arab-American in the U.S.

Author: Walter Dean Myers

Title: 145th Street: Short Stories

Description: Ten stories portray life on a block in Harlem.

Author: Graham McNamee

Title: Acceleration

Description: Stuck working in the lost and found department of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

Author: Kenneth Oppel

Title: Airborn

Description: Matt Cruse, cabin boy on the great airship Aurora, is about to have an adventure beyond his wildest dreams.

Author: Hal Marcovitz

Title: Anime

Description: Describes the history of anime, covering its influences, its arrival in the United States, what sets it apart from other types of animation, the role of women in anime, and messages in anime.

Author: Susan M Brooks

Title: Any Girl Can Rule the World

Description: Provides information and resources for teenage girls who want to do more with their lives, such as becoming a political activist, investing in the stock market, or producing a cable television show.

Author: Barbara Kingsolver

Title: The Bean Trees

Description: Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.

Author: Nicholas Sparks

Title: A Bend in the Road

Description: North Carolina deputy sheriff Miles Ryan, heartbroken over his wife's death in a hit-and-run accident two years earlier, considers love again when he meets his son's second-grade schoolteacher, Sarah--but he soon finds that his wife's death was anything but an accident and danger is not far away.

Author: K. M. Grant

Title: Blood Red Horse

Description: Two brothers are called by King Richard to fight in the Crusades. They are bound together by a special horse and a girl they both love.

Author: Peter Dickinson

Title: A Bone from a Dry Sea

Description: In two parallel stories, a young female member of a prehistoric tribe becomes instrumental in advancing her people, and a present-day girl visits her paleontologist father on a dig in Africa where they discover important fossil remains.

Author: Shannon Hale

Title: Book of a Thousand Days

Description: A lady's maid and her mistress are sentenced to seven years in a tower in this tale based on Grimm.

Author: Alex Flinn

Title: Breaking Point

Description: Fifteen-year-old Paul enters an exclusive private school and falls under the spell of a charismatic boy who may be using him.

Author: Francisco Jimenez

Title: Breaking Through

Description: Fourteen-year-old Francisco Jimenez and his family leave Mexico and arrive at the U.S. and Mexican border in Nogales, Arizona. In the months and years that follow, Francisco, his mother and father, and his seven brothers and sisters not only struggle to keep their family together, but also face crushing poverty, long hours of labor, and blatant prejudice.

Author: Marilyn Nelson

Title: Carver, a Life in Poems

Description: This collection of poems provides a lyrical account of the life of George Washington Carver, a man born into slavery who went on to head the agricultural department at the Tuskegee Institute.

Author: Adeline Yen Mah

Title: Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter

Description: Yen Mah is only an infant when her father remarries after her mother's death. As the youngest of her five siblings, Wu Mei suffers the worst at the hands of her stepmother Niang.

Author:

Title: Contents under Pressure

Description: Lucy, a fourteen-year-old high school freshman, experiences the happiness and confusion of dating a popular older boy, changing relationships with life-long friends, and sharing a bedroom with her older brother's pregnant girlfriend.

Author: Lynne Rae Perkins

Title: Criss Cross

Description: Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.

Author: Shelley Pearsall

Title: Crooked River

Description: When twelve-year old Rebecca Carter's father brings a Native American accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town, Rebecca, witnessing the town's reaction to the Indian, struggles with the idea that an innocent man may be convicted and sentenced to death.

Author: Julius Lester

Title: Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue

Description: When gambling debts and greed enter into the Butler household, Pierce Butler decides to host the biggest slave auction in American history.

Author: Gail Giles

Title: Dead Girls Don't Write Letters

Description: Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died out of town in a fire months earlier.

Author: Paul Acampora

Title: Defining Dulcie

Description: When sixteen-year-old Dulcie's father dies, her mother makes a decision to move them to California, where Dulcie makes an equally radical decision to steal her dad's old truck and head back home.

Author: Justin Somper

Title: Demons of the Ocean

Description: Twins Connor and Grace never dreamed that there was any truth to the Vampire shanty their father sang to them before he died, but that was before the two were shipwrecked and separated from each other.

Author: Timothy Zahn

Title: Dragon and Thief: A Dragonback Adventure

Description: When a spaceship crashes near Jack's hiding place, with one survivor, his life is changed forever.

Author: Sylvia Louise Engdahl

Title: Enchantress from the Stars

Description: Elana arrives on primitive planet Andrecia to study its society, but soon becomes involved in saving it from invasion.

Author: Orson Scott Card

Title: Ender's Game

Description: Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Author: Polly Shulman

Title: Enthusiasm

Description: Julie and Ashleigh, high school sophomores and Jane Austen fans, seem to fall for the same Mr. Darcy-like boy and struggle to hide their true feelings from one another while rehearsing for a school musical.

Author: Malin Alegria

Title: Estrella's Quinceanera

Description: Estrella's mother and aunt are planning a gaudy, traditional quinceanera for her, even though it is the last thing she wants.

Author: Neal Shusterman

Title: Everlost

Description: When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.

Author: Sharon Draper

Title: Forged by Fire

Description: Gerald, a teenager who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, must face the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.

Author: Ann Bausum

Title: Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement

Description: How did two youths—one raised in an all-black community in the deep South, the other brought up with only whites in the Midwest—become partners for freedom during the civil rights movement of the 1960s? Freedom Riders compares and contrasts the childhoods of John Lewis and James Zwerg in a way that helps young readers understand the segregated experience of our nation's past.

Author: Ellen Levine

Title: Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories

Description: Southern blacks who were young and involved in the Civil Rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s describe their experiences.

Author: David Anthony Durham

Title: Gabriel's Story

Description: Gabriel Lynch, an African-American teenager who has moved with his mother from New York to live on his stepfather's Kansas homestead, brings serious trouble down upon himself and his family when he leaves the farm to join a group of cowboys who turn out to be a gang of criminals.

Author: Thomas B. Allen

Title: George Washington, Spymaster

Description: A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

Author: Kirby Larson

Title: Hattie Big Sky

Description: Alone in the world, teen-aged Hattie is driven to prove up on her uncle's homesteading claim.

Author: Alex J. Packer

Title: How Rude!: The Teenagers' Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior, and Not Grossing People Out

Description: A humorous but practical guide to good manners and social skills, discussing such areas as family life, behavior in public, manners in school, eating, and clothes.

Author: Charles J. Shields

Title: I am Scout: the Biography of Harper Lee

Description: This biography tells the story of how Harper Lee struggled to become an author and created one of the most popular novels of the 20th century.

Author: Jennifer Niven

Title: The Ice Master: The Doomed 1913 Voyage of the Karluk

Description: The story of the 1913 Canadian Arctic Expedition, perhaps the worst-planned arctic exploration in history.

Author: Allan Wolf

Title: Immersed in Verse: An Informative, Slightly Irreverent & Totally Tremendous Guide to Living the Poet's Life

Description: Contains advice, ideas, writing activities, and encouragement from a working poet for aspiring poets. Includes poems by a variety of poets from the unknown to the famous, including Langston Hughes, e.e. cummings, Eve Merriam, and more.

Author: Daniel Dyer

Title: Jack London: A Biography

Description: Biography of the colorful American writer who had been an oyster pirate, a seal hunter, a mill worker, a hobo, and a political activist before becoming a popular author at the age of twenty-nine.

Author: Martine Leavitt

Title: Keturah and Lord Death

Description: When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love.

Author: Russell Freedman

Title: Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor

Description: Lewis Hine, an investigative reporter for the National Child Labor Committee, took photographs that provided dramatic visual evidence that the U.S. needed laws against child labor. Kids at Work features Hines' groundbreaking photos, along with text by Newbery Honor Winner Russell Freedman.

Author: Gary Paulsen

Title: The Legend of Bass Reeves

Description:

An account of the life of Bass Reeves, federal marshal.

Author: Alden R. Carter

Title: Love, Football, and Other Contact Sports

Description: Jock to loner, academic snob to outcast, the author explores and shatters the stereotypes behind the relationships, friends, rumors, peer pressure, sports, bullies, and other assorted forms of mental anguish that come with high school.

Author: Marthe Jocelyn

Title: Mable Riley: A Reliable Record of Humdrum, Peril, and Romance

Description: In 1901, fourteen-year-old Mable Riley dreams of being a writer and having adventures while stuck in Perth County, Ontario, assisting her sister in teaching school and secretly becoming friends with a neighbor who holds scandalous opinions on women's rights.

Author: Walter Dean Myers

Title: Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary

Description: A biography of the civil rights leader offers an in-depth look at his life and includes quotes from speeches.

Author: Vy Higginson

Title: Mama, I Want to Sing

Description: In the late 1940s and early 1950s Doris Winter follows her dream to be a singer, eventually rising from church choir member to pop star.

Author: William Gibson

Title: The Miracle Worker

Description: William Gibson's play about teacher Annie Sullivan's determined quest to give twelve-year-old Helen Keller, blind, deaf, and mute, the gift of language

Author: Alison Croggon

Title: The Naming

Description: A manuscript from the lost civilization of Edil-Amarandah chronicles the experiences of sixteen-year-old Maerad, an orphan gifted in the magic and power of the Bards, as she escapes from slavery and begins to learn how to use her Gift to stave off the evil Darkness that threatens to consume her world.

Author: Nathan Aaseng

Title: Navajo Code Talkers

Description: Describes how the American military in World War II used a group of Navajo Indians to create an indecipherable code based on their native language.

Author: Rachel Cohn & David Levithan

Title: Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist

Description: High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart.

Author: Gordon Korman

Title: No More Dead Dogs

Description: Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

Author: Jennifer Donnelly

Title: A Northern Light

Description: In 1906, Mattie takes a job at an inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest.

Author: Avi

Title: Nothing but the Truth

Description: When ninth-grader Philip Malloy decides to hum along with the daily audiotape of "The Star Spangled Banner, " in violation of school rules, who would have thought the incident would escalate into a national controversy?

Author: Ernest Hemingway

Title: The Old Man and the Sea

Description: An old fisherman battles the sea and sharks to bring home the giant marlin he caught

Author: Lorraine Hansberry

Title: Raisin in the Sun

Description: An African-American family is united in love and pride as they struggle to overcome poverty and harsh living conditions, in the award-winning 1959 play about an embattled Chicago family.

Author: Elizabeth Partridge

Title: Restless Spirit: The Life and Work of Dorothea Lange

Description: A biography of Dorothea Lange, whose photographs of migrant workers, Japanese American internees, and rural poverty helped bring about important social reforms.

Author: Nancy Werlin

Title: The Rules of Survival

Description: Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

Author: Garth Nix

Title: Sabriel

Description: Sabriel, a young mage, must travel into the Old Kingdom in search of her missing father and fight death itself.

Author: Sarah L. Thomson

Title: The Secret of the Rose

Description: When her father is imprisoned in 1592 England for being Catholic, fourteen-year-old Rosalind disguises herself as a boy and finds an ultimately dangerous job as servant to playwright Christopher Marlowe.

Author: Ron Koertge

Title: Shakespeare Bats Cleanup

Description: The story of a straight-talking 14-year old first baseman who's benched by mono and decides to take a swing at writing poetry.

Author: Kate Constable

Title: The Singer of All Songs

Description: Calwyn, a young priestess of ice magic, or "chantment," joins with other chanters who have different magical skills to fight a sorcerer who wants to claim all powers for his own.

Author: David Lubar

Title: Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie

Description: While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.

Author: Anthony Horowitz

Title: Stormbreaker

Description: After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

Author: Sue Macy

Title: Swifter, Higher, Stronger: A Photographic History of the Summer Olympics

Description: A detailed look at the history of the Olympic Games, focusing on the Summer Olympics.

Author: Sharon Draper

Title: Tears of a Tiger

Description: The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

Title: Teenage Soldiers, Adult Wars

Description: A collection of fictional and non-fictional stories and essays dealing with war and its effects on the young.

Author: Tamora Pierce

Title: Terrier: Beka Cooper, Book 1

Description: When sixteen-year-old Beka becomes "Puppy" to a pair of "Dogs," as the Provost's Guards are called, she uses her police training, natural abilities, and a touch of magic to help them solve the case of a murdered baby in Tortall's Lower City.

Author: Siena Cherson Siegel

Title: To Dance: A Memoir

Description: The author describes how she first decided she wanted to be a ballerina at the age of six, and how that dream carried her from her home in Puerto Rico to dance class in Boston to performing with the New York City Ballet.

Author: Harper Lee

Title: To Kill a Mockingbird

Description: A story about a lawyer in a small Alabama town in the 1930's whose defense of a black man arouses the town's prejudice and hostility.

Author: Stephanie Pierson

Title: Vegetables Rock!: A Complete Guide for Teenage Vegetarians

Description: Offering great advice to the more than two million newly vegetarian teenagers is this reliable source for nutritional information, vegetarian values, recipes and cooking tips.

Author: Ursula K. Le Guin

Title: Voices

Description: Young Memer takes on a pivotal role in freeing her war-torn homeland from its oppressive captors.

Author: Cinda Williams Chima

Title: The Warrior Heir

Description: After learning about his magical ancestry and his own warrior powers, sixteen-year-old Jack embarks on a training program to fight enemy wizards.

Author: Odelia Ainbinder

Title: We Just Want to Live Here: A Palestinian Teenager, an Israeli Teenager: An Unlikely Friendship

Description: An unsparing--yet hopeful--account of what it means to grow up in Jerusalem today as told through the candid exchange of letters between a Palestinian teenager and an Israeli teenager.

Author: Chris Crutcher

Title: Whale Talk

Description: A big yellow Cutter High School bus provides surprising sanctuary for seven unlikely teammates, swimmers who become, in the words of Coach Simet, "a perennial road team. Mermen without a pond".

Author: Peter Menzel

Title: What the World Eats

Description: A photographic collection exploring what the world eats, featuring portraits of twenty-five families from twenty-one countries surrounded by a week's worth of food.

Author: Marilyn Nelson

Title: A Wreath for Emmett Till

Description: Emmett Louis Till was a fourteen-year-old African American boy lynched for supposedly whistling at a white woman in Mississippi in 1955. This book is a poetic tribute to the boy who helped propel the Civil Rights Movement forward.