

East Orange School District

Rising Grades 9 – 12 Required Summer



Student Packet
Summer 2016

Importance of Summer Reading

The “summer slide” is the tendency for students to lose some of the academic gains they made during the school year. Many students fall behind during the summer unless they are given the attention and resources to continue the learning process during these pivotal summer months.

Having access to books and other educational resources during the summer reinforces reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and writing; all critical to improving and maintaining a student’s academic success. Those who lack the opportunity to read, write, think and participate in book discussions, will continue to fall behind every summer; consequently, making the achievement gap too great to close.

Did you know that summer reading could improve?

- Reading and Writing Proficiencies
- Building of Vocabulary skills
- Development of Grammar
- Increase Test Scores
- Enjoyment of Reading

All of these fundamentals are vital for students to be considered to be college bound and career-ready.

Rising Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Course-Level Requirements

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| • Core Levels: I,II,III,IV | (1) literature/fiction & (1) informational/nonfiction |
| • Honors Levels: I,II,III,IV | (2) literature/fiction & (2) informational/nonfiction |
| • AP Levels: I,II III,IV | (3) literature/fiction & (3) informational/nonfiction |

We encourage students to review their choices with their parents. Some texts may contain mature content and language; however, all selections are CCSS aligned and identified as exemplar texts.

Deadlines, Assignments & Assessment

All books must be read by TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016.

On TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016, students will be required to hand in their dialectical reading journal(s) they have kept while reading the assigned books. During the week of September 6, 2016, students will participate in class discussions and take a short

assessment on asterisked (*/**/****) text(s). Then, students will begin work on their first essay pertaining to their summer readings.

Due to the shift to the new Common Core curriculum, some levels will be reading the similar texts (*i.e.*: CCSS RL.9-10). We hope that this will foster more discussion in the classrooms, a closer reading of the texts, and will help to unify the curriculum.

Dialectical Journaling

The term “dialectic” is defined as, “The art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations within the text you are reading over the summer. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the text while reading. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the text. This can include your ideas and thoughts about the theme(s), tone and purpose of the text. This strategy is a useful way to process what you’re reading, prepare for class/group discussion, and gather textual evidence for your Literary Analysis assignments. The procedures for maintaining your dialectical journal are attached; therefore, it is pertinent to follow this process thoroughly.

Grading Criteria

Students are expected to participate in class discussions and submit their dialectical journal(s) on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Required summer reading will count as one test grade in the student’s first quarter average. Extra credit reading will also count as one test grade.

Books, Articles & Resources

Local libraries and area bookstores (Barnes and Noble) have been sent copies of the summer reading lists. Students may wish to check used bookstores for bargains, trade books among themselves, and preview or purchase books by visiting www.amazon.com or www.bn.com. Articles can be downloaded or printed from the attached websites/hyperlinks.

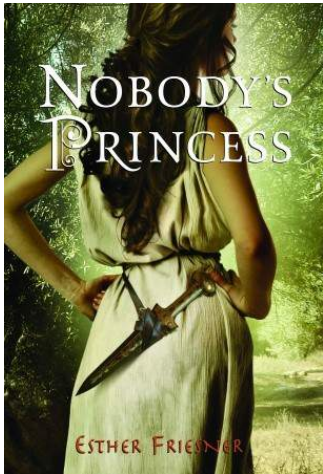
Rising Grade 9 Summer Reading List

REFERENCE:

(*) = Identified as Core, Honors, & AP required summer reading

(**) = Identified as Honors & AP ONLY required summer reading

(***) = Identified as AP ONLY required summer reading



Classic Literature/Fiction

Rising Grade 9

*Nobody's Princess by Esther M. Friesner

Lexile Level: 960

Content Connection: English Language Arts, World History

Overview: She is beautiful, she is a princess, and Aphrodite is her favorite goddess, but something in Helen of Sparta just itches for more out of life. Not one to count on the gods—or her looks—to take care of her, Helen sets out to get what she wants with steely determination and a sassy attitude. That same attitude makes Helen a few enemies—such as the self-proclaimed "son of Zeus" Theseus—but it also intrigues, charms, and

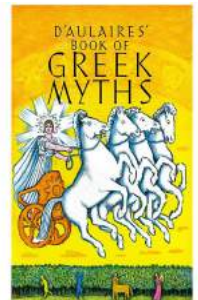
amuses those who become her friends, from the famed huntress Atalanta to the young priestess who is the Oracle of Delphi.

**D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri d'Aulaire

Lexile Level: 1010

Content Connection: English Language Arts, World History, Visual & Performing Arts

Overview: In print for over fifty years, *D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths* has introduced generations to Greek mythology—and continues to enthrall young readers. Here are the greats of ancient Greece—gods and goddesses, heroes and monsters—as freshly described in words and pictures as if they were alive today:



- Powerful Zeus, king of the gods, with his fistful of thunderbolts
- Hermes, mischievous trickster and messenger of the gods
- Gray-eyed Athena, goddess of wisdom and battle strategy
- The monstrous Minotaur, slain by brave Theseus
- Snake-haired Medusa the gorgon, turning enemies to stone with her steely stare
- Hercules the mightiest, part mortal, part god

These and other equally magnificent figures parade across the pages, their heroic deeds and petty squabbles illuminated in full dimension.

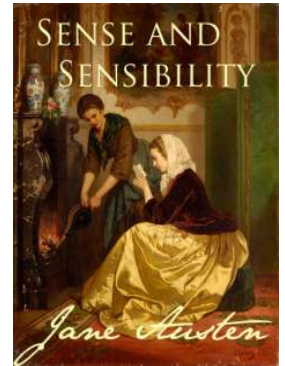
*****Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen**

Lexile Level: 1080

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History I

Overview: *Sense and Sensibility* is a wonderfully entertaining tale of flirtation and folly that revolves around two starkly different sisters, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood. While Elinor is thoughtful, considerate, and calm, her younger sister is emotional and wildly romantic. Both are looking for a husband, but neither Elinor's reason nor Marianne's passion can lead them to perfect happiness—as Marianne falls for an unscrupulous rascal and Elinor becomes attached to a man who's already engaged.

Startling secrets, unexpected twists, and heartless betrayals interrupt the marriage games that follow. Filled with satiric wit and subtle characterizations, *Sense and Sensibility* teaches that true love requires a balance of reason and emotion.



Who Moved My Cheese (Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 700

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Overview: James Patterson's winning follow-up to the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life*—which the *LA Times* called "a perfectly pitched novel"—is another riotous and heartwarming story about living large.

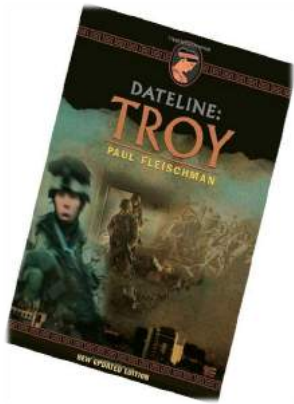
The Trojan War (Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 1160

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Overview: In this retelling of the Trojan War, Olivia Coolidge crafts heroes and gods into real, multidimensional characters, not just the figures of legend. Vibrant storytelling and finely wrought action have made her version of the classic tale of the Fall of Troy accessible to generations of young readers.





Informational/Nonfiction

Rising Grade 9

***Dateline: Troy**

Lexile Level: 1000

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Overview: An instant classic for schools and libraries! "The Trojan War is ancient history. Yet, as Newbery Medalist Paul Fleischman reveals, the story of the ILIAD is as current as this morning's newspaper." The legend of the Trojan War, with its twists of tragedy and powerful portraits of human nature, has transfixed listeners and readers for thousands of years. Now Paul Fleischman retells Homer's epic poem the ILIAD ingeniously juxtaposing each episode with newspaper clippings of modern events from the First World War through to the Gulf War to reveal astonishing parallels between the ancient world and our own. In proud Achilles, crafty Odysseus, and lovestruck Paris, we recognize our own leaders, enemies, and next-door neighbors. In their misbegotten battles we perceive the waste of modern warfare. Enthralling storytelling as well as a penetrating look at the unending nature of war, DATELINE: TROY will leave readers with the enduring sense that history is now.

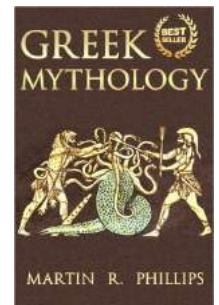
****Greek Mythology – Ancient History**

Lexile Level: 1090

Content Alignment: English Language Arts, World History

http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/greek-mythology#section_3

Overview: "Myth has two main functions," the poet and scholar Robert Graves wrote in 1955. "The first is to answer the sort of awkward questions that children ask, such as 'Who made the world? How will it end? Who was the first man? Where do souls go after death?'...The second function of myth is to justify an existing social system and account for traditional rites and customs." In ancient Greece, stories about gods and goddesses and heroes and monsters were an important part of everyday life. They explained everything from religious rituals to the weather, and they gave meaning to the world people saw around them.

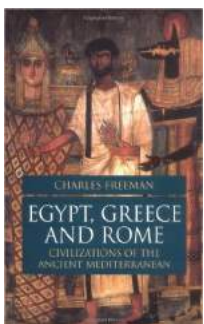


*****Egypt, Greece and Rome: Civilizations of the Ancient Mediterranean by Charles Freeman**

Lexile Level: 1290

Content Connection: English Language Arts, World History

Overview: Long sources of mystery, imagination, and inspiration, the myths and history of the ancient Mediterranean have given rise to artistic, religious, cultural, and intellectual traditions that span the centuries. In this unique and comprehensive introduction to the region's three major civilizations, Egypt, Greece, and Rome draws a fascinating picture of the deep links between the cultures across the Mediterranean and explores the ways in which these civilizations continue to be



influential to this day. Beginning with the emergence of the earliest Egyptian civilization around 3500 BC, Charles Freeman follows the history of the Mediterranean over a span of four millennia to AD 600, beyond the fall of the Roman empire in the west to the emergence of the Byzantine empire in the east.

Cleopatra – Ancient History (Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 1100

Content Alignment: English Language Arts, World History

<http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/cleopatra>

Cleopatra VII ruled ancient Egypt as co-regent (first with her two younger brothers and then with her son) for almost three decades. She became the last in a dynasty of Macedonian rulers founded by Ptolemy, who served as general under Alexander the Great during his conquest of Egypt in 332 B.C. Well-educated and clever, Cleopatra could speak various languages and served as the dominant ruler in all three of her co-regencies. Her romantic liaisons and military alliances with the Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, as well as her supposed exotic beauty and powers of seduction, earned her an enduring place in history and popular myth.



Rising Grade 10 Summer Reading List

REFERENCE:

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(**) = Identified as Honors & AP ONLY required summer reading

(***) = Identified as AP ONLY required summer reading

Classic Literature/Fiction

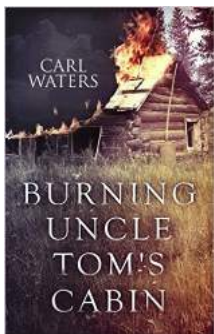
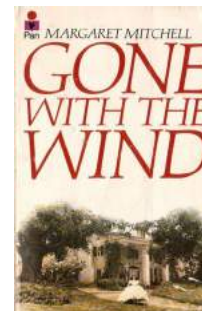
Rising Grade 10:

*Gone with the Wind

Lexile Level: 1090

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History I

Overview: Many novels have been written about the Civil War and its aftermath. None take us into the burning fields and cities of the American South as *Gone With the Wind* does, creating haunting scenes and thrilling portraits of characters so vivid that we remember their words and feel their fear and hunger for the rest of our lives.



**Burning Uncle Tom's Cabin by Carl Waters:

Lexile Level: 1000

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History I

Overview: Young slave George Harris is a self-taught inventor with an owner who despises him. Slavery has forced him apart from his wife, Eliza, and their three-year-old son Harry, who belong to another owner. George dreams of the day he can escape north and work for his family's freedom, but no amount of careful planning could prepare him for what came next.

When Eliza learns that her owner plans to sell Harry to pay off a debt, she runs north at once. George must escape too, if he has any hope of finding his family before the slave hunters do. They'll all travel to Canada, a journey that's treacherous, long, and often deadly. Will George and Eliza find their freedom or die trying?

***The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Lexile Level: 1100

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History I

Overview: Sleepy Hollow is known for being home to ghosts and spirits, the most famous of which is the terrifying Headless Horseman, a specter searching for the head he lost to a stray cannonball during the American Revolutionary War. Ichabod Crane, a superstitious schoolmaster, is more concerned with earning the hand of Katrina Van Tassel than worrying about ghosts, but the night that he expects to earn Katrina's affections holds something quite different in store for him.



Ruth's Journey: A Novel of Mammy from Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* (Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 1180

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History I

Overview: Set against the backdrop of the South from the 1820s until the dawn of the Civil War, here is a remarkable story of fortitude, heartbreak, and indomitable will—and a tale that will forever illuminate your reading of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*.

Informational/Nonfiction

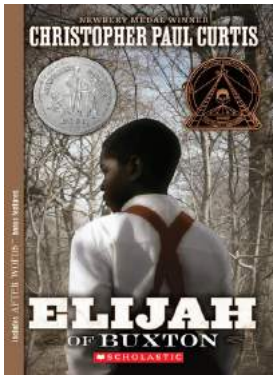
Rising Grade 10

***Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Chris**

Lexile Level: 1070

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History II

Summary: Newbery Medalist and CSK Award winner Christopher Paul Curtis's debut middle-grade/young-YA novel for Scholastic features his trademark humor, compelling storytelling, and unique narrative voice. Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He's best known for having made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass, but that changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Elijah embarks on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of the thief and discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents fled—a life from which he'll always be free, if he can find the courage to get back home.

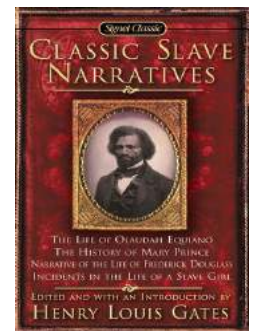


****The Classic Slave Narratives by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**

Lexile Level: 1020

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History I

Summary: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., presents a seminal volume of four classic slave narratives, including the 1749 texts of *The Life of Olaudah Equiano*, the last edition corrected and published in his lifetime. The collection also includes perhaps the best known and most widely read slave narrative—*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, as well as two narratives by women: *The History of Mary Prince: A West Indian Slave*, and *Incident in the Life of a Slave Girl*, written by Harriet Jacobs as Linda Brent. This edition also features an updated introduction by Professor Gates.

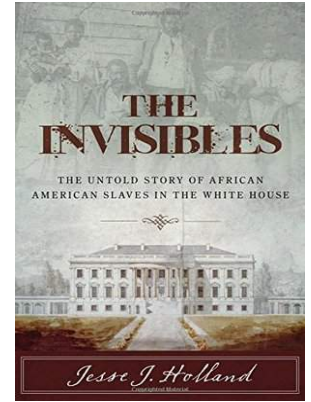


*****The Invisibles: The Untold Story of African American Slaves in the White House by Jessie Holland**

Lexile Level: 1160

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History I

Summary: *The Invisibles* chronicles the African American presence inside the White House from its beginnings in 1782 until 1862, when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that granted slaves their freedom. During these years, slaves were the only African Americans to whom the most powerful men in the United States were exposed on a daily, and familiar, basis. By reading about these often-intimate relationships, readers will better understand some of the views that various presidents held about class and race in American society, and how these slaves contributed not only to the life and comforts of the presidents they served, but to America as a whole.



The Book of Negroes by Lawrence Hill (Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 1200

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History I

Summary: "In this "transporting" and "heart-stopping" novel, Aminata Diallo, one of the strongest women characters in contemporary fiction, is kidnapped from Africa as a child and sold as a slave in South Carolina. Fleeing to Canada after the Revolutionary War, she escapes to attempt a new life in freedom.

The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make: A Guide for Teens by Sean Covey (Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 870

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Overview: In *The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make*, Sean Covey, author of the international bestseller *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, gives teens the strong advice they need to make informed and wise decisions. Using real stories from teens around the world, Sean shows teens how to succeed in school, make good friends, get along with parents, wisely handle dating and sex issues, avoid or overcome addictions, build self-esteem, and much more. Jam-packed with original cartoons, inspiring quotes, and fun quizzes, this innovative book will help teens not only survive but thrive during their teen years and beyond.



Rising Grade 11 Summer Reading List

REFERENCE:

(*) = Identified as Core, Honors, & AP required summer reading

(**) = Identified as Honors & AP ONLY required summer reading

(***) = Identified as AP ONLY required summer reading

Classic Literature/Fiction

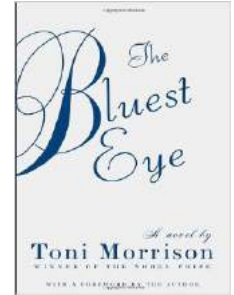
Rising Grade 11

*Bluest Eyes by Toni Morrison

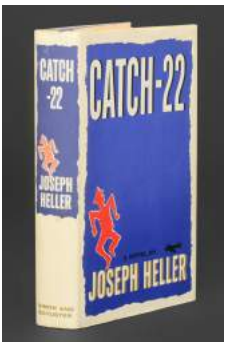
Lexile Level: 980

Content Connection: English Language Arts, Modern History

Summary: *The Bluest Eye*, published in 1970, is the first novel written by Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature. It is the story of eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove—a black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others—who prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning and the tragedy of its fulfillment.



**Catch 22 by Joseph Heller



Lexile Level: 1030

Content Connection: English Language Arts, Modern History

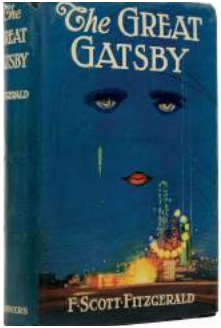
Summary: *Catch-22* is like no other novel we have ever read. It has its own style, its own rationale, its own extraordinary character. It moves back and forth from hilarity to horror. It is outrageously funny and strangely affecting. It is totally original.

It is set in the closing months of World War II, in an American bomber squadron on a small island off Italy. Its hero is a bombardier named Yossarian, who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he hasn't even met keep trying to kill him. (He has decided to live forever even if he has to die in the attempt.)

*****The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

Lexile Level: 1070

Content Connection: English Language Arts, Modern History



Overview: This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when The New York Times noted “gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession,” it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 890

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Overview: 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.

Informational/Nonfiction

Rising Grade 11

***Harlem Church Where Malcolm X Was Eulogized Faces Its Own Final Days by David W. Dunlap**

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/31/nyregion/harlem-church-where-malcolm-x-was-eulogized-faces-its-own-final-days.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FMalcolm%20X&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=collection&_r=0

Lexile Level: 1100

Content Connection: English Language Arts, Modern History

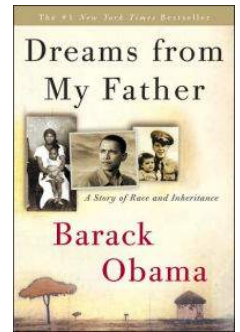
Overview: “Here at this final hour, in this quiet place, Harlem has come to bid farewell to one of its brightest hopes – extinguished now, and gone from us forever,” the actor Ossie Davis said on Feb. 27, 1965, over the coffin of Malcolm X, a transcendent lightning rod among African-American leaders who had been assassinated by gunmen six days earlier.

****Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barak Obama**

Lexile Level: 1190

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Nine years before the Senate campaign that made him one of the most influential and compelling voices in American politics, Barack Obama published this lyrical, unsentimental, and powerfully affecting memoir, which became a #1 New York Times bestseller when it was reissued in 2004. *Dreams from My Father* tells the story of Obama's struggle to understand the forces that shaped him as the son of a black African father and white American mother—a struggle that takes him from the American heartland to the ancestral home of his great-aunt in the tiny African village of Alego.



*****The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X and Alex Haley**

Lexile Level: 1120

Content Connection: English Language Arts, Modern History

From hustling, drug addiction and armed violence in America's black ghettos Malcolm X turned, in a dramatic prison conversion, to the puritanical fervour of the Black Muslims. As their spokesman he became identified in the white press as a terrifying teacher of race hatred; but to his direct audience, the oppressed American blacks, he brought hope and self-respect. This autobiography (written with Alex Haley) reveals his quick-witted integrity, usually obscured by batteries of frenzied headlines, and the fierce idealism which led him to reject both liberal hypocrisies and black racialism.

Vilified by his critics as an anti-white demagogue, Malcolm X gave a voice to unheard African-Americans, bringing them pride, hope and fearlessness, and remains an inspirational and controversial figure.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
MALCOLM X



Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West by Dee Brown
(Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 1120

Content Connection: English Language Arts, Modern History

Overview: A true classic of American history, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* is Dee Brown's eloquent, meticulously documented account of the systematic destruction of the American Indian during the second half of the nineteenth century. Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, Brown allows the great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes to tell in their own words of the battles, massacres, and broken treaties that finally left them demoralized and defeated.

Eulogy delivered by Ossie Davis at the funeral of Malcolm X – February 27, 1965 (Extra Credit)

<http://malcolmx.com/eulogy/>

Lexile Level: 1120

Content Connection: English Language Arts, Modern History

Excerpt: “Here – at this final hour, in this quiet place – Harlem has come to bid farewell to one of its brightest hopes – extinguished now, and gone from us forever. For Harlem is where he worked and where he struggled and fought – his home of homes, where his heart was, and where his people are – and it is, therefore, most fitting that we meet once again – in Harlem – to share these last moments with him. For Harlem has ever been gracious to those who have loved her, have fought her, and have defended her honor even to the death.



Rising Grade 12 Summer Reading List

REFERENCE:

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Classic Literature/Fiction

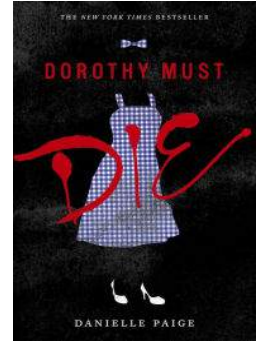
Rising Grade 12

*[Dorothy Must Die \(Dorothy Must Die Series #1\) by Danielle Paige](#)

Lexile Level: 1000

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Overview: Sure, I've read the books. I've seen the movies. I know the song about the rainbow and the happy little blue birds. But I never expected Oz to look like this. To be a place where Good Witches can't be trusted, Wicked Witches may just be the good guys, and winged monkeys can be executed for acts of rebellion. There's still a road of yellow brick—but even that's crumbling. What happened? Dorothy. They say she found a way to come back to Oz. They say she seized power and the power went to her head. And now no one is safe.



**[The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by Frank L. Baum](#)

Lexile Level: 1070

Content Connection: English Language Arts



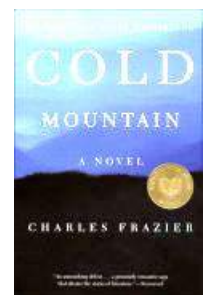
Overview: Dorothy Gale found life as dull as the gray prairies that surrounded her Kansas home—until a cyclone transported her to a strange fairy-tale land known as Oz. There, Dorothy discovers a wondrous place filled with Munchkins, flying monkeys, witches, and magic. The only way for her and her dog, Toto, to return home to dear Uncle Henry and Aunt Em is to travel along the road of yellow brick to the Emerald City, where the all-powerful Wizard of Oz may be able to help her. Along the way, Dorothy befriends the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion, who also need the Wizard's help. But while Dorothy desperately tries to find her way back home, the Wicked Witch of the West will do whatever it takes to stop her.

***[Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier](#)

Lexile Level: 1210

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History

Overview: Based on local history & family stories passed down by Frazier's great-great-grandfather, *Cold Mountain* is the tale of a wounded Confederate soldier, Inman, who walks away from the ravages of the war & back home to his prewar sweetheart, Ada. His odyssey thru the devastated landscape of the soon-to-be-



defeated South interweaves with Ada's struggle to revive her father's farm, with the help of an intrepid young drifter named Ruby. As their long-separated lives begin to converge at the close of the war, Inman & Ada confront the vastly transformed world they've been delivered.

[The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends and Their Meanings \(Extra Credit\)](#)

Lexile Level: 1330

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History

Overview: *he Vanishing Hitchhiker* was Professor Brunvand's first popular book on urban legends, and it remains a classic. The culmination of twenty years of collection and research, this book is a must-have for urban legend lovers.

[The Wicked Will Rise by Danielle Paige \(Extra Credit\)](#)

Lexile Level: 1060

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Overview: In this dark, high-octane sequel to the *New York Times* bestselling *Dorothy Must Die*, Amy Gumm must do everything in her power to kill Dorothy and free Oz.

To make Oz a free land again, Amy Gumm was given a mission: remove the Tin Woodman's heart, steal the Scarecrow's brain, take the Lion's courage, and then Dorothy must die...

But Dorothy still lives. Now the Revolutionary Order of the Wicked has vanished, and mysterious Princess Ozma might be Amy's only ally. As Amy learns the truth about her mission, she realizes that she's only just scratched the surface of Oz's past—and that Kansas, the home she couldn't wait to leave behind, may also be in danger. In a place where the line between good and evil shifts with just a strong gust of wind, who can Amy trust—and who is really Wicked?

[Informational/Nonfiction](#)

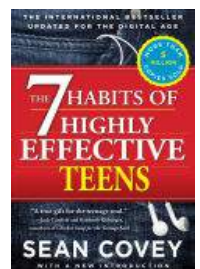
Rising Grade 12

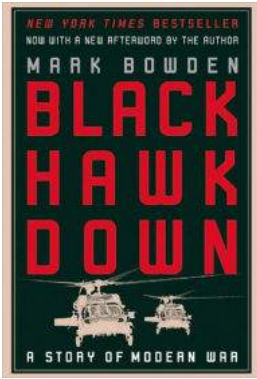
***[The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#)**

Lexile Level: 1000

Content Connection: English Language Arts

Summary: In the bestselling tradition of *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*, this invaluable guide speaks loudly and convincingly to teens and provides them with universal principles sure to enhance their effectiveness and guide their future decisions.





****Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern Warfare by Mark Bowden**

Lexile Level: 970

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History

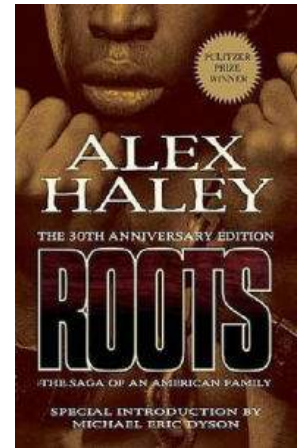
In 1993, a band of U.S. soldiers in Somalia were on a mission to capture two lieutenants of a Somali warlord. Through the night, in the longest sustained fighting by American troops since Vietnam, they battled thousands of armed Somalis. By morning, 18 Americans were dead. Now a major motion picture from Columbia Pictures, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Ewan McGregor, Josh Hartnett, and Sam Shepard, set for release in March 2002.

*****Roots: The Saga of an American Family by Alex Haley**

Lexile Level: 1330

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History

One of the most important books and television series ever to appear, *Roots*, galvanized the nation, and created an extraordinary political, racial, social and cultural dialogue that hadn't been seen since the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The book sold over one million copies in the first year, and the miniseries was watched by an astonishing 130 million people. It also won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. *Roots* opened up the minds of Americans of all colors and faiths to one of the darkest and most painful parts of America's past.



Over the years, both *Roots* and Alex Haley have attracted controversy, which comes with the territory for trailblazing, iconic books, particularly on the topic of race. Some of the criticism results from whether *Roots* is fact or fiction and whether Alex Haley confused these two issues, a subject he addresses directly in the book. There is also the fact that Haley was sued for plagiarism when it was discovered that several dozen paragraphs in *Roots* were taken directly from a novel, *The African*, by Harold Courlander, who ultimately received a substantial financial settlement at the end of the case.

Queen by Alex Haley and David Stevens (Extra Credit)

Lexile Level: 1330

Content Connection: English Language Arts, US History

Multigenerational saga of Alex Haley's father's family through his grandmother, Queen, the proud daughter born of a slave and a white slave owner.

Reading Activity

Dialectical Journaling:

The term “dialectic” means “*the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.*” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts while reading. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts you read. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the texts and your ideas about the theme of the text. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you’re reading, prepare yourself for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for the text.

Dialectical Journal Procedure:

1. As you read each paragraph or page, underline the main ideas and record it in the left-hand column and write a brief summary of each page in your journal. It is important to include the page number for referencing and evidence of citation.
2. In the right-hand column, write your ideas, insights, questions, reflections, and comments in response to the text on the page. See example below.
3. You **must** label your responses using the following codes:
 - (Q) **Question** – ask about something in the passage that is unclear
 - (C) **Connect** – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
 - (P) **Predict** – anticipate what will occur based on what’s in the passage
 - (CL) **Clarify** – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction
 - (R) **Reflect** – think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense—not just to the characters in the story/author of the article. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
 - (E) **Evaluate** - make a judgment about what the author is trying to say

Choosing Passages from the Text:

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you’ve seen before,
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot,
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before,
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs,
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary,
- Events you find surprising or confusing,
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

Responding to the Text:

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be *specific and detailed*. You can write as much as you want for each entry.

Basic Responses:

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author

Sample Sentence Starters:

I really don't understand this because...

I really dislike/like this idea because...

I think the author is trying to say that...

This passage reminds me of a time in my life when...

If I were (name of character) at this point I would...

This part doesn't make sense because...

This character reminds me of (name of person) because...

Higher Level Responses:

- Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery)
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc.)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character
- Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole

read! Anytime.
Anywhere.
Anyhow.

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry:

<p>Passages from the text. (Must quote at least 3-5 per reading chapter. Make sure to number them.)</p>	<p>Page #/¶</p>	<p>Each passage you quote or respond to must relate to one of the following codes above. (Make sure to use a variety. Using the same codes for most or all of your entries will result in a lower score.)</p>
<p>1. "The yellow marks in my college textbooks...did not help me very much."</p> <p>2. "Annotations do make me read a lot slower and I wish I didn't have to do them. It is so much harder to fake read if you have to annotate like we have to do now. So now I actually read, because it's too hard to fake annotate".</p>	<p>82/1</p> <p>87/2</p>	<p>(C) I can relate since I often used to highlight what I thought was important and then end up with most of the page highlighted.</p> <p>(C) It is harder to fake annotate-it almost takes more time.</p> <p>(R) People are prone to find the easy way to do something. Since there's really no easy way to annotate-fake or real-it makes sense to really read and think about the texts.</p> <p>(Q) Is it really harder to fake read if you have to annotate? Or does it just take longer?</p>

