

Rising Ninth Grade Summer Reading List



CP Expectations: Students entering a College Preparatory class must read **ONE** book from either the CP list OR the Honors list.

Honors/ Gifted Expectations: Students entering an Honors/Gifted class must read **TWO** books, 1 of which must be from the Honors/Gifted list.

CP List-Of the books that CP students must, CP students may choose from either list.

I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You by Ally Carter - The Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women lives up to its name. Not only does this exclusive boarding school teach advanced language skills and correct deportment; its students also master the arts of tapping phones, hacking into computers, and spying in public places.

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins-This is the second in the very popular Hunger Games Trilogy. A futuristic nation that controls its people by forcing its citizens to sacrifice its children to battle in a televised arena.

Forged by Fire by Sharon Draper - When Gerald was a child he was fascinated by fire. But fire is dangerous and powerful, and tragedy strikes. His substance-addicted mother is taken from him. Then he loses the loving generosity of a favorite aunt. A brutal stepfather with a flaming temper and an evil secret makes his life miserable. The one bright light in Gerald's life is his little half sister, Angel.

Right Behind You by Gail Giles - At the age of nine, Kip McFarland is a troubled child. Living with his dad in the Alaskan wilderness after his mother's death, Kip is lonely and jealous of other kids' easy lives. So jealous, in fact, that when his seven-year-old neighbor stops by to show off a brand-new baseball glove, he sets the glove --- and the boy --- on fire.

The Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes - While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Spellbound by Janet McDonald - Sixteen-year-old Raven was always "the smart girl," her nose in a book and a promising future, despite the fact that she was raised in poverty by her uneducated single mother. But when Raven goes to a party one night and meets a boy she can't say "no" to, she gives in to his charismatic ways and she's left with a baby. Suddenly high school is no longer bearable and her college plans have vanished into the night.

When I Was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago - This triumphant coming-of-age memoir is now available in paperback editions in both English and Spanish. In the tradition of *Black Ice*, Santiago writes lyrically of her childhood on her native island and of her bewildering years of transition in New York City.

The Afterlife by Gary Soto - You'd think a knife in the ribs would be the end of things, but for Chuy, that's when his life at last gets interesting. He finally sees that people love him, faces the consequences of his actions, finds in himself compassion and bravery . . . and even stumbles on what may be true love.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie - In his first book for young adults --- a finalist for the National Book Award --- bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, an aspiring cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the reservation to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Flygirl by Sherri Smith - Sherri L. Smith's latest novel takes place in 1941 during World War II. Ida Mae Jones's life changes when her older brother Thomas announces he has joined the army. With Thomas off to war for over a year and a half, Ida Mae feels helpless. But then one day, she finds a newspaper article announcing a Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program, which sparks an idea about how she can help. Ida Mae already loves to fly, and now she can use this passion to help her country and make her father proud.

Copper Sun by Sharon Draper - Fifteen-year-old Amari is taken from her village in Africa by pale-faced strangers and sent across the ocean to America. She is sold to a plantation owner in the Carolinas who wants a birthday present for his son. Here Amari meets Polly, an indentured white girl, and the two girls from different ends of the earth bond together in order to survive --- and their friendship just might help them fight their way to freedom.

Tears of a Tiger-Sharon Draper-Andy Jackson, a high school basketball star-was driving the car that crashed on night after a game, killing his best friend and captain of the team. It was late, and they had been drinking. Months later, he is still unable to forgive himself. As he turns away from all that life still offers him, he finds he is unable to face his future.

Honors/Gifted List-(1 of the 2 books that rising Honors or Gifted students read, must be from this list.)

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card - To defend against a hostile alien race, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin is drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Is Ender the general Earth needs? His two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, and between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world --- if the world survives.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien - In the enchanting prelude to the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, hobbit Bilbo Baggins wants to be left alone in quiet comfort. But the wizard Gandalf comes along with a band of homeless dwarves. Soon Bilbo is drawn into their quest, facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and worse dangers. Finally, it is Bilbo --- alone and unaided --- who confronts the terrible dragon Smaug.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne - John Boyne's novel is the gripping story of two boys --- one the son of a commandant in Hitler's army and the other a Jew --- who come face-to-face at a barbed wire fence that separates, and eventually intertwines their lives.

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult - Sterling is a small, ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens --- until the day its complacency is shattered by a shocking act of violence. In the aftermath, the town's residents must not only seek justice in order to begin healing but also come to terms with the role they played in the tragedy.

A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly - Set in 1906 against the backdrop of the murder that inspired Theodore Dreiser's *AMERICAN TRAGEDY*, Jennifer Donnelly's astonishing debut novel effortlessly weaves romance, history, and a murder mystery into something moving, and real, and wholly original.

Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger; a classic novel narrated by main character and hero Holden Caulfield, is the story of Holden's life in the few days after being expelled from his Pennsylvania prep school, as he explores his disillusionment with life.

Watership Down by Richard Adams; a classic novel, set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home.