

Summer Reading Requirements for 9th Grade

Dear Rising Freshmen,

Welcome to high school! This summer, you will be required to read **TWO** books prior to the start of school. One is the required reading, and the other is a choice book.

Required Reading:

Of Mice & Men by John Steinbeck is your required reading for 9th grade. This book is fairly short and should probably be read in August.

Choice Reading:

In addition to *Of Mice and Men*, you will choose ONE of the following five books to read this summer. I have included a brief summary for you, but be sure to preview these books on reliable websites before making your choice. ***Book choices represent a range of tastes and a range of maturity. Each student and his or her parents must decide if a given book contains objectionable material and choose a different selection.**

1. *Every Day* by David Levithan

Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl.

There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere.

It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day.

With his new novel, David Levithan has pushed himself to new creative heights. He has written a captivating story that will fascinate readers as they begin to comprehend the complexities of life and love in A's world, as A and Rhiannon seek to discover if you can truly love someone who is destined to change every day.

2. *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard

Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood--those with common, Red blood serve the Silver- blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own.

To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard--a growing Red rebellion--even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal.

****SPECIAL NOTE: If you have already read *Red Queen* and want to continue this series, you may read *Glass Sword* (book 2) or *King's Cage* (book 3), instead.**

3. *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to World War II.

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a

harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

4. *Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts* by Susan Cain

Susan Cain sparked a worldwide conversation when she published *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*. With her inspiring book, she permanently changed the way we see introverts and the way introverts see themselves.

The original book focused on the workplace, and Susan realized that a version for and about kids was also badly needed. This book is all about kids' world—school, extracurriculars, family life, and friendship. You'll read about actual kids who have tackled the challenges of not being extroverted and who have made a mark in their own quiet way. You'll hear Susan Cain's own story, and you'll be able to make use of the tips at the end of each chapter. There's even a guide at the end of the book for parents and teachers.

This insightful, accessible, and empowering book, illustrated with amusing comic-style art, will be eye-opening to extroverts and introverts alike.

5. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

The American classic about a young girl's coming of age at the turn of the century.

"A profoundly moving novel, and an honest and true one. It cuts right to the heart of life...If you miss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* you will deny yourself a rich experience...It is a poignant and deeply understanding story of childhood and family relationships. The Nolans lived in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn from 1902 until 1919...Their daughter Francie and their son Neely knew more than their fair share of the privations and sufferings that are the lot of a great city's poor. Primarily this is Francie's book. She is a superb feat of characterization, an imaginative, alert, resourceful child. And Francie's growing up and beginnings of wisdom are the substance of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*."

During the first week of school, students will take a **summer reading test**. Seventy-five percent of the test will address *Of Mice & Men*. A writing component on the *choice reading* will make up the other 25% of the test.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. Have a great summer, and I look forward to meeting you all in August.

Happy Reading!

Melissa Lambert

mlambert@parrottacademy.org