

ELA Summer Reading List and Assignment

GRADE 9

Simple

1. *Monster* - Walter Dean Myers
The story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives
2. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* – Sherman Alexie
The story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation
3. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* – Mitch Albom
Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination, but an answer. In heaven, five people explain your life to you.
4. *Elsewhere* – Gabrielle Zevin
After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to “live.”

Medium

1. *The Secret Life of Bees* – Sue Monk Kidd
Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free.
2. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* – Garth Stein
Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul, he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver.
3. *Big Fish* – Daniel Wallace
In his prime, Edward Bloom was an extraordinary man. There wasn't anything he couldn't do -- and do well. He could outrun anybody. He never missed a day of school, even in the worst blizzard. He saved lives. Animals loved him, people loved him, and women loved him.
4. *The Maze Runner* – James Dashner
When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone

walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive

5. *The Book Thief* –Markus Zusak
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.
6. *An Abundance of Katherines* – John Green
When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type happens to be girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact.
7. *A Child Called "It"* - Dave Pelzer
David Pelzer, victim of one of the worst child abuse cases in the history of California, tells the story of how he mother's brutality and triumphed over his past.

Difficult

8. *A Separate Peace* – John Knowles
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.
9. *The Pearl* - John Steinbeck
Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon."
10. *Go Ask Alice* – Anonymous
After you've had it, there isn't even life without drugs.... It started when she was served a soft drink laced with LSD in a dangerous party game. Within months, she was hooked, trapped in a downward spiral that took her from her comfortable home and loving family to the mean streets of an unforgiving city.
11. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* – Mark Haddon
Christopher John Francis Boone thinks in his own way. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder.
12. *Queenbees and Wannabees* – DeAnn Valorie Miller
I explore the lived experience of 5 middle school girls in grades 5-9, who have experienced bullying. My question for this study asks, "What is the lived experience of adolescent girls who have experienced female bullying?"
13. *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* - [Jean-Dominique Bauby](#)
After 20 days in a coma, Bauby awoke into a body which had all but stopped working: only his left eye functioned, allowing him to see and, by blinking it, to make clear that his mind was unimpaired.

14. *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team and a Dream* – H.G. Bassinger
Chronicles a football season in Odessa, Texas, a depressed All-American town that lives and dies with the fortunes of its high school football team

Your Task

Directions: Choose 3 out of the 14 books to read during the summer.

- 1. Complete the literature chart worksheet for each book you read.**
- 2. Complete the culminating assignment for ONE of the books that you have read.**
Options:
 - a. Create a piece of art work (collage, painting, etc) with a 300 word description of how the art connects to the reading**
 - b. create a scrapbook (of the story or the characters)**
 - c. design and write a series (3) post-cards to the characters.**

Due: September 9th 2015