



Norristown Area High School

Summer Reading List: Grade 9

The teachers of Norristown Area High School feel that it is important for students to continue to work on acquiring, maintaining and improving reading and analysis skills through the summer months as well as appreciating literature and reading for personal enjoyment. The English I, and English I Weighted Honors courses require students to complete several independent reading assignments throughout the year. Summer should be a time when students can continue to hone their independent reading skills. When students return to school in the fall, they should be prepared to participate in a variety of analytic discussions to enhance their understanding and interpretation of the texts.

9th Grade WEIGHTED HONORS STUDENTS will be **required** to read the book *The Pact* and be prepared to analyze themes in writing and through discussions the first week of school in the fall. You can take notes in your novels or in a readers' notebook to use during the discussions and writing assignments in class, however these are optional and will not be graded.

Summer Reading for 9th Grade Fall 2017:

Required Reading for 9th Grade WH students: *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream Reissue Edition*

by Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Remeck Hunt

Suggested reading for Regular Ed. English I Students.

Chosen by *Essence* to be among the forty most influential African Americans, the three doctors grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attaining that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day—they are all doctors.

This is a story about the power of friendship. Of joining forces and beating the odds. A story about changing your life, and the lives of those you love most...together.

9th Grade Additional Suggested Summer Reading Book List

1. ***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*** – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (fiction)
A colonel receives five seeds in the mail--and dies within weeks. A young bride disappears immediately after her wedding. An old hat and a Christmas goose are the only clues to a stolen jewel. A son is accused of his father's murder. These mysteries--and many more--are brought to the house on Baker Street where detective Sherlock Holmes resides. No case is too tricky for the world's most famous sleuth and his incredible powers of deduction.
2. ***We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March***--Cynthia Levinson (nonfiction)
Focusing on the experiences of four young people who were at the center of a pivotal moment in the American civil rights movement, this is the story of 4,000 black children and teenagers who voluntarily went to jail between May 2 and May 11, 1963. In the end, the children succeeded where adults had failed, and one of the most racially violent cities in America was desegregated.
3. ***Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different***--Karen Blumenthal
Equally reviled and revered--often by the same people--Steve Jobs, the man who operated from his own "reality distortion field," was an extraordinary "tweaker" who transcended the visionary to perfect the simple and transform the world as we know it. Skillfully crafted and meticulously researched, Blumenthal's accessible biography presents an intimate and fully dimensional portrait of a complex American icon and the multiple trajectories of influence on our technological paradigms that define his enduring legacy.
4. ***The Burn Journals***--Brent Runyon (nonfiction)
On the sixteenth page of this incisive memoir, eighth-grader Brent Runyon drenches his bathrobe with gasoline and sets himself on fire. The burns cover 85 percent of his body and require six months of painful skin grafts and equally invasive mental-health rehabilitation. From the beginning, readers are immersed in the mind of 14-year-old Brent as he struggles to heal body and mind.
5. ***The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives***--Neil Swidey (nonfiction)
This book introduces us to Jack O'Brien, the near-legendary coach at Charlestown High School in Boston, whose life "seemed to begin and end with basketball." His devotion to his players' well-being helped keep them off the streets and, in many cases, secured them college scholarships. His successes, including four state championships in a row, derived in great part from a "tough love" approach.
6. ***All But My Life: A Memoir***--Barbara Rosenblatt (nonfiction)
Gerda Weissmann Klein tells us the story of a young girl forced into the events of the Nazi Holocaust. The story is of a family torn apart, and never to see one another again.
7. ***The Natural***, by Bernard Malamud (fiction)
The Natural, Bernard Malamud's first novel, published in 1952, is also the first—and some would say still the best—novel ever written about baseball.
8. ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***—Douglas Adams
Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of the *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out of work actor. Together this dynamic pair begins their journey through space aided by quotes from *The Hitch Hiker's Guide!*