

Poolesville High School Summer Reading: Honors English 9 and English 9 (2019-20)

While you are spending this summer relaxing and enjoying a well-deserved vacation, include reading as a part of your plan. Reading a variety of texts will help you prepare for your high school studies, increase your vocabulary and fluency, and expose you to the types of thinking and writing that you will do in English 9. This summer reading assignment will ask you to choose a text that interests you, read it (of course!) and engage with it in different ways by writing at least three journal entries based on the prompts below.

Directions:

- Read through the list of choices, and choose a book that interests you. You can find these titles at the public library and in bookstores. Some may be available as e-books, as well.
- As you read, think about the messages (themes) of the book, which you think are the most meaningful, and how the those themes are developed.
- At three different points in your reading (beginning, middle, and end, for example), pause to reflect and write a one-paragraph to one page journal entry in response to what you have read. You must respond to at least three of the prompts below.

Prompts:

1. Choose a character of the book, and decide what would be an appropriate birthday present for that character. Explain why.
2. Make a list of the characters in your book and then create a cast of famous people that you would choose to portray that character if you were making a movie, and give a rationale for each of your choices. Include pictures of the "actors" you choose.
3. Copy a sentence from the book that you think is well written. How is this sentence constructed (length, structure, order of content, et cetera)? Why do you like this sentence?
4. Find a piece of art that reflects the main message of the book, and create an original short story about the art that conveys a similar message. Make sure to include a picture of the art in your journal.
5. What is one thing in this book that has really challenged you as a thinker or a reader? Explain why it is challenging and how you dealt with the challenge.
6. Of the characters in the book, who do you have the strongest personal connection to? Why?
7. Write a letter to the protagonist of the book explaining why you support or don't support a key decision they made.
8. How have you changed your way of thinking or feeling about anything after reading this book? Explain.
9. Find a piece of art that reflects the main message of the book, and write a short explanation of why. Make sure to include a picture of the art in your journal.
10. What is the theme or lesson of the book, and what is the author's position or opinion on it? Explain how you know.
11. Choose one quote that is important to the main message of the book and explain why it is important. Make sure to include the quote in your journal.
12. What if the story took place 100 years in the future or the past from its current setting? How would that change the conflict in the story?
13. If you were to step into the book as a character, what would you do, and how would that affect the outcome of the story?
14. If you were to write a sequel to this book, what might happen to the characters? What would the book be about?
15. What is one lesson from the book that you can use in your own life? Explain why this is useful and how you could use it.

Due Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2019

Though your English teacher will only be collecting paragraphs about one novel, you are encouraged to read multiple books and deepen your engagement with reading over this summer!

Sincerely,
the Honors English 9 Teachers

Summer Contact: Mr. McKenna, English Resource Teacher, Daniel_J_McKenna@mcpsmd.org; 240-740-2400

Reading Book Selections: Honors English 9 and English 9

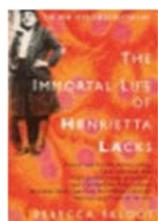
View a live list from the PHS Library Catalog [here](#)



523.49 BRO

Brown, Mike. [How I killed Pluto and why it had it coming.](#)

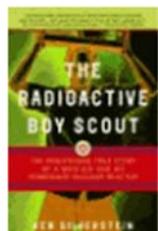
The astronomer who inadvertently triggered the "demotion" of Pluto in his effort to officially recognize the solar system's tenth planet describes the ensuing debates and public outcry while revealing the behind-the-scenes story of his discovery.



616 SKL

Skloot, Rebecca. [The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks.](#)

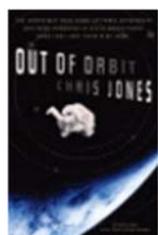
Cancer Patients, Cell Culture, Medical Ethics, Hela Cells. Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping.



621.48 SIL

Silverstein, Ken. [The radioactive boy scout : the true story of a boy and his backyard nuclear reactor.](#)

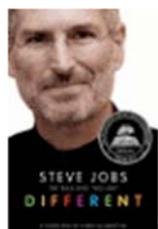
While he was working on his Atomic Energy badge for the Boy Scouts, David's obsessive attention turned to nuclear energy. Throwing caution to the wind, he plunged into a new project: building a model nuclear reactor in his backyard garden shed.



629.45 JON

Jones, Chris. [Out of orbit : the true story of how three astronauts found themselves hundreds of miles above the earth with no way home.](#)

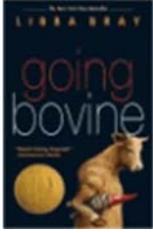
Describes how, in the wake of the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia, the three astronauts orbiting Earth in the International Space Station were forced to come up with a makeshift and risky way to get back home.



JOB

Blumenthal, Karen. [Steve Jobs: the man who thought different : a biography.](#)

Presents the life and career of the computer industry visionary, from his early life and creation of Apple Computer at the age of twenty to his accomplishments in technology and design.



EBK F BRA

Bray, Libba. Going bovine.

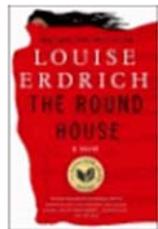
All 16-year-old Cameron wants is to get through high school; and life in general; with a minimum of effort. It's not a lot to ask. But that's before he's given some bad news: he's sick and he's going to die.



EBK F DOY

Doyle, Arthur Conan, 1859-1930, author. The hound of the Baskervilles.

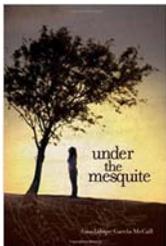
Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson travel to the bleak wastes of Dartmoor to solve the mystery surrounding the death of the late Sir Charles Baskerville and a ghostly hound.



EBK F ERD

Erdrich, Louise. The round house.

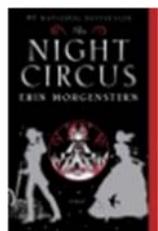
Transporting readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota this exquisitely told story of a boy on the cusp of manhood who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family.



EBK F GAR

Garcia McCall, Guadalupe. Under the mesquite.

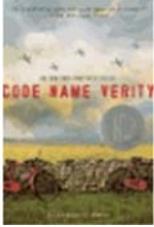
Lupita, a budding actor and poet in a close-knit Mexican American immigrant family, comes of age as she struggles with adult responsibilities during her mother's long illness. Young adult novel in verse.



EBK F MOR

Morgenstern, Erin. The night circus.

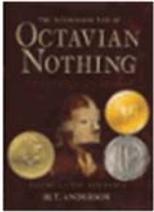
The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amusements. It is called Le Cirque des Reves, and it is only open at night.



EBK F WEI

Wein, Elizabeth. Code name verity : Code Name Verity Series, Book 1.

Oct. 11th, 1943; A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance.



AND

Anderson, M. T. The astonishing life of Octavian Nothing, traitor to the nation, vol. 1: The Pox party.

Liberty, science experiments, Massachusetts history, U.S. history, Audiobooks, Compact discs. Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.



AVA

Avasthi, Swati. Chasing shadows.

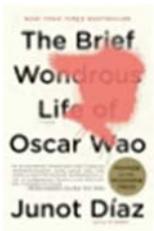
A searing look at the impact of one random act of violence. Before: Corey, Holly, and Savitri are one unit-- fast, strong, inseparable. Together they turn Chicago concrete and asphalt into a freerunner's jungle gym, ricocheting off walls, scaling buildings, leaping from rooftop to rooftop. But acting like a superhero doesn't make you bulletproof.



CAM

Cameron, Peter. Someday this pain will be useful to you.

Interpersonal - New York -Self-Perception. Eighteen-year-old James living in New York City with his older sister and divorced mother struggles to find a direction for his life.



DIA

Díaz, Junot. The brief wondrous life of Oscar Wao.

Living with an old-world mother and rebellious sister, an urban New Jersey misfit dreams of becoming the next J. R. R. Tolkien and believes that a long-standing family curse is thwarting his efforts to find love and happiness.



DOC

Doctorow, Cory. Little brother.

After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.



DOL

Doller, Trish. Something like normal.

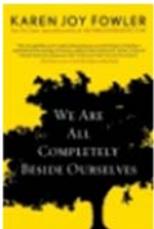
When Travis returns home from Afghanistan, his parents are splitting up, his brother has stolen his girlfriend and car, and he has nightmares of his best friend getting killed but when he runs into Harper, a girl who has despised him since middle school, life actually starts looking up.



FAR

Farish, Terry. The Good braider.

Follows Viola as she survives brutality in war-torn Sudan, makes a perilous journey, lives as a refugee in Egypt, and finally reaches Portland, Maine, where her quest for freedom and security is hampered by memories of past horrors and the traditions her mother and other Sudanese adults hold dear. Includes historical facts and a map of Sudan.



FOW

Fowler, Karen Joy. We are all completely beside ourselves.

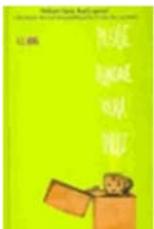
Meet the Cooke family: Mother and Dad, brother Lowell, sister Fern, and Rosemary, who begins her story in the middle. She has her reasons. "I was raised with a chimpanzee," she explains. "I tell you Fern was a chimp and already you aren't thinking of her as my sister. But until Fern's expulsion...she was my twin, my funhouse mirror, my whirlwind other half and I loved her as a sister." As a child, Rosemary never stopped talking. Then, something happened, and Rosemary wrapped herself in silence.



KAT

Katcher, Brian. Almost perfect.

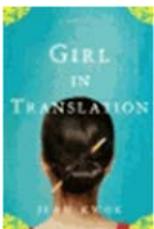
With his mother working long hours and in pain from a romantic break-up, eighteen-year-old Logan feels alone and unloved until a zany new student arrives at his small-town Missouri high school, keeping a big secret.



KIN

King, A. S. (Amy Sarig). Please ignore Vera Dietz.

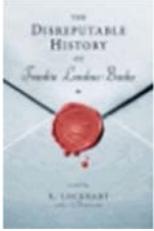
When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name.



KWO

Kwok, Jean. Girl in translation.

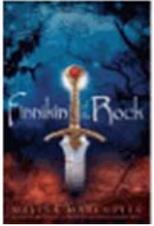
Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly Chang begins a secret double life as an exceptional schoolgirl during the day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by her first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty.



Lockhart, E. The disreputable history of Frankie Landau-Banks.

Tells of the life and transformation of Frankie Landau-Banks who began her teenage years as a quiet member of the Debate Club and grew to become a sixteen-year-old criminal mastermind with an attitude to match.

LOC



Marchetta, Melina. Finnikin of the rock.

Now on the cusp of manhood, Finnikin, who was a child when the royal family of Lumatere was brutally murdered and replaced by an imposter, reluctantly joins forces with an enigmatic young novice and fellow-exile, who claims that her dark dreams will lead them to a surviving royal child and a way to regain the throne of Lumatere.

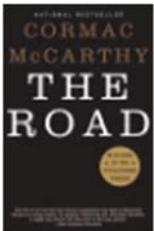
MAR



Markandaya, Kamala. Nectar in a sieve.

Married as a child bride to a tenant farmer she had never met, Rukmani works side by side in the field with her husband to wrest a living from a land ravaged by droughts, monsoons, and insects. With remarkable fortitude and courage, she meets changing times and fights poverty and disaster.

MAR



McCarthy, Cormac. The road.

In a novel set in an indefinite, futuristic, post-apocalyptic world, a father and his young son make their way through the ruins of a devastated American landscape, struggling to survive and preserve the last remnants of their own humanity.

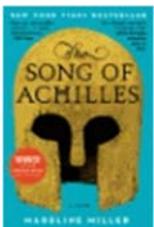
MCC



McCarry, Sarah. All our pretty songs.

In the Pacific Northwest, the bond between two best friends is challenged when a mysterious and gifted musician comes between them and awakens an ancient evil.

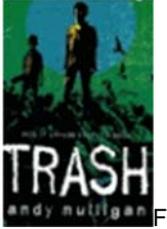
MCM



Miller, Madeline. The song of Achilles.

Patroclus, an awkward young prince, follows Achilles into war, little knowing that the years that follow will test everything they have learned, everything they hold dear. And that, before he is ready, he will be forced to surrender his friend to the hands of Fate. Set during the Trojan War.

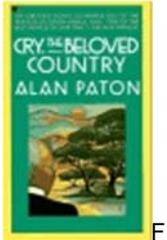
MIL



MUL

Mulligan, Andy. Trash.

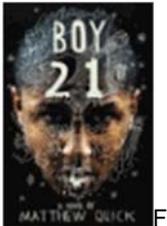
Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a third-world country's dump.



PAT

Paton, Alan. Cry, the beloved country.

The deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice.



QUI

Quick, Matthew. Boy21.

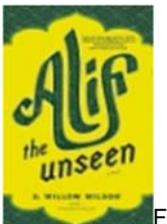
Finley, an unnaturally quiet boy who is the only white player on his high school's varsity basketball team, lives in a dismal Pennsylvania town that is ruled by the Irish mob, and when his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from an elite private school in California, he finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their apparent differences.



ROW

Rowell, Rainbow. Eleanor & Park.

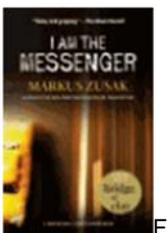
Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.



WIL

Wilson, G. Willow. Alif the unseen.

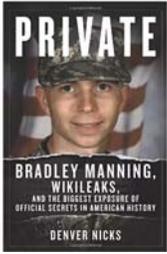
Forced underground when his ex-lover's new fiancé breaches his computer, putting him and his clients in jeopardy, young Arab-Indian hacker Alif discovers the secret book of the jinn and uses its insights to enable life-threatening developments in information technology.



ZUS

Zusak, Markus. I am the messenger.

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.



Nicks, Denver. Private: Bradley Manning, WikiLeaks, and the Biggest Exposure of Official Secrets in American History.

Manning's story is one of global significance, yet she remains an enigma. Now, for the first time, the full truth is told about a woman who, at the age of only twenty-two, changed the world.



Guene, Faiza. Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow.

The Paradise projects are only a few metro stops from Paris, but here it's a whole different kind of France. Doria's father, the Beard, has headed back to their hometown in Morocco, leaving her and her mom to cope with their mektoub—their destiny—alone.