



Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading
Students Entering Grade 9
Summer 2021

- All students entering grade 9 are expected to read the required text.
- Students may choose to take notes on the grade-wide title with [this note-taking guide](#). These notes are optional.
- Students are encouraged to read additional books over the summer; they may wish to consider titles on the suggested list below.

Required Text for Grade 9 English		
Author	Title	Synopsis
Watson	<i>Piecing Me Together</i>	Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some <i>opportunities</i> she doesn't really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference. From Amazon.com

If you are looking for enriching reading options in addition to your required book, consider one of these titles!

Author	Title	Synopsis
Alexie	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, is a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA. Born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw. Expecting disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to a school in Reardan, he soon finds himself making friends. The teen's determination to both improve himself and overcome poverty, despite the handicaps of birth, circumstances, and race, delivers a positive message. From School Library Journal
Bradbury	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy. Bradbury's powerful and poetic prose combines with uncanny insight into the potential of technology to create a novel which, decades on from first publication, still has the power to dazzle and shock. From goodreads.com
Haddon	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	Christopher Boone is the autistic 15-year-old narrator of this novel. When his neighbor's poodle is killed, Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, and decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes and track down the killer. The mystery leads him to the secrets of his parents' broken marriage and then into an odyssey to find his place in the world. Using deductive logic, he navigates the emotional complexities of a social world that remains a closed book to him. From Publishers Weekly
King	<i>The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon</i>	On a hike on the Appalachian Trail, nine-year-old Trisha McFarland tires of the constant bickering between her older brother and her recently divorced mother. When she wanders off, she becomes lost in a wilderness full of peril and terror. For solace she tunes her Walkman to broadcasts of Boston Red Sox games. When her reception begins to fade, Trisha imagines that Tom Gordon, her hero, is with her -- protecting her from an all-too-real enemy in the dense, dark woods. From Amazon.com

McCall	<i>Under the Mesquite</i>	This stunning debut novel in verse chronicles the teenage years of Lupita, a character drawn largely from the author’s own childhood. The power of Lupita’s story lies in the authenticity of her struggles, from dealing with her mother’s illness to arguments with friends about acculturation. This book will appeal to many teens for different reasons, whether they have experienced loss, aspire to write and act, are growing up Mexican American, or are seeking their own identity. School Library Journal Review on Amazon.com
Reynolds and Kiely	<i>All American Boys</i>	In an unforgettable new novel from award-winning authors Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension. Amazon.com Review
Russo	<i>If I was Your Girl</i>	Amanda Hardy is the new girl in school. Like anyone else, all she wants is to make friends and fit in. But Amanda is keeping a secret, and she’s determined not to get too close to anyone. But when she meets sweet, easygoing Grant, Amanda can’t help but start to let him into her life. She finds herself yearning to share with Grant everything about herself, including her past. But Amanda’s terrified that once she tells him the truth, he won’t be able to see past it. Because the secret that Amanda’s been keeping? It’s that at her old school, she used to be Andrew. Will the truth cost Amanda her new life, and her new love? Amazon.com
Saroyan	<i>The Human Comedy</i>	The place is Ithaca, California during World War II. The Macauley family’s struggles and dreams reflect those of America’s second-generation immigrants, in particular, fourteen-year-old Homer, who is determined to become one of the fastest telegraph messengers in the West. He finds himself caught between reality and illusion as delivering his messages of wartime death, love, and money brings him face-to-face with human emotion at its most naked and raw. Amazon.com
Stone	<i>Dear Martin</i>	Justyce is an African American teen caught between two worlds. He knows that the education he’s receiving at a private school will grant him more economic opportunities, however he begins to question the effects his private school education on his own identity. Some of his classmates believe that the racial pendulum has swung too far, giving African Americans an unfair advantage over their white counterparts. The kids he grew up with believe Justyce has assimilated too much and has forgotten where he came from. Through a series of journal entries, Justyce attempts to figure out his place in the world by exploring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. A violent altercation between a retired white police officer and his best friend causes Justyce to examine what it means to be an African American male in 2017. School Library Journal review on Amazon.com
Stroud	<i>The Amulet of Samarkand</i>	Nathaniel is a magician’s apprentice, taking his first lessons in the arts of magic. But when a hot-shot wizard named Simon Lovelace humiliates Nathaniel in front of his elders, Nathaniel decides to show Lovelace who’s boss. With revenge on his mind, he summons the powerful djinni, Bartimaeus. But summoning Bartimaeus and controlling him are two different things entirely, and when Nathaniel sends the djinni out to steal Lovelace’s greatest treasure, the Amulet of Samarkand, he finds himself caught up in a whirlwind of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion. Amazon.com Product Description
Woodson	<i>If You Come Softly</i>	Two 15 year olds, Jeremiah (Miah) who is black, and Elisha (Ellie) who is white, meet during their first year at an exclusive New York prep school. Both teens are dealing with difficult family situations and must also deal with the bigotry they experience as a mixed-race couple. Miah and Ellie work through their problems, and their relationship continues to blossom, giving readers a shared sense of contentment. Thus, the tragic climax will leave them stunned. Woodson tells the story through alternating voices, Ellie’s in the first person and Miah’s in the third. School Library Journal Review on Amazon.com