







# HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: WHAT IS TRUTH?

## I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou's memoir of her Arkansas childhood is a classic of twentieth-century literature. This coming-of-age story reveals the author's strength and resilience in the face of racism, trauma, and poverty. *Nonfiction; Lexile: 1070L* 

#### White Cat by Holly Black

When Cassel Sharpe discovers that his older brothers have used him to carry out their criminal schemes and then stolen his memories, he figures out a way to turn their evil machinations against them. *Fiction; Lexile: HL700L* 

## The Compound by S. Bodeen

After his family has spent six years in a vast underground compound built by his wealthy father to protect them from a nuclear holocaust, Eli discovers that his father has perpetrated a monstrous hoax on them all. *Fiction; Lexile:* 570L

## The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

In this groundbreaking novel, Henry Fleming is a soldier who must conquer his terror of battle or live in shame. He discovers the truth about himself in the midst of the Civil War, the bloodiest conflict in American history. *Fiction; Lexile: 920L* 

#### Diary of a Madman and Other Stories by Nikolai Gogol

Written in diary form, this novel tells the story of a government clerk who loses his mind. At the beginning of the story, the narrator writes rationally. As the story progresses, however, the narrator descends deeper into madness. The volume also includes the author's classic story, "The Nose." Fiction; Lexile: 1060L

#### Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins

In this autobiography, Rosa Parks tells the story of how her refusal to give up a bus seat to a white man in 1955 inspired a year of boycotts, lawsuits, and, ultimately, a new future for civil rights in America. *Nonfiction; Lexile: 970L* 

## The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. LeGuin

In this innovative science-fiction novel, Genly Ai is a government representative sent to the isolated planet of Gethen to mend relationships among an evolving galactic civilization. To do so, he must overcome his own prejudices as well as those of the people he encounters. *Fiction; Lexile:* 970L

## The Sea-Wolf and Selected Stories by Jack London

Captain Wolf Larsen believes the weak do not deserve to live; his crewman, Humphrey van Weyden, strongly disagrees. This tale of bitter conflict and other short stories in this collection whisks readers into a world of peril and adventure. *Fiction* 

#### Legend by Marie Lu

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy. *Fiction; Lexile: HL710L* 

# Left for Dead by Peter Nelson

This nonfiction account recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight 55 years later. *Nonfiction; Lexile: 1260L* 

## Six Characters in Search of an Author by Luigi Pirandello

Imagine your family walking into a theater and demanding that the actors portray your relationships on stage. This play, a classic of modern theater, explores that idea. *Fiction* 

#### Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allen Poe

"The Raven," Poe's narrative poem that mixes sorrow with supernatural gloom, is just one of the classic poems and stories included in this volume. *Fiction* 

### Picture Me Gone by Meg Rosoff

Mila travels with her father from London to upstate New York to visit friends and family, who may lead them to clues to the whereabouts of her father's best friend, who has gone missing. *Fiction; Lexile: HL780L* 

#### Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

Considered one of Shakespeare's finest comedies for its skillful combination of humor with more serious meditations on honor, shame and politics. *Fiction* 

#### Journey Home by Yoshiko Uchida

As World War II rages overseas, prejudice against Japanese Americans runs rampant in the United States. Yuki and her family, just released from an internment camp, must deal with this climate of fear and anger on their journey home, as described in this gripping historical novel. *Fiction; Lexile:* 890L