

Incoming 9th Grade Summer Reading 2020

Bellaire High School

Incoming 9th Grade Academic & College Prep

Students enrolled in 9th Grade Academic or CP English are encouraged to get a jump start on their independent reading by reading **ONE book of their choosing** over the summer. Critical reading is an integral part of the English Language Arts curriculum at Bellaire High School, and we want you to start the year having read over the summer months. We will have independent reading each grading cycle, and reading at least one book over the summer is a great way to start the year on a strong note. There are many benefits to independent reading – it can improve vocabulary, as well as reading comprehension and writing skills. Most importantly, finding a book you truly enjoy and connect with can help you to foster a lifelong love of reading.

There will be an assignment within the first grading cycle related to your independent reading. This assessment will not be in the form of a multiple-choice test, rather, it will be something a bit more creative – a project of some kind or perhaps individual reading conference.

You may have just the book in mind, and if so, that's great! But if you need some help selecting a book, below are a couple of options to help lead you down the right path.

- Check out your local public library! Your local librarian knows that library backward and forward, and he or she would love to help you find a book that suits your interests.
- MackinVIA – this is a resource in which you can find hundreds of books online for free! All you need to access this app (online via the HUB or iPhone/Android app) is your HUB sign-in information.
- Your Next Read – this will help you to find books via title, author, or genre. Check it out at the following link: <http://www.yournextread.com/us/>
- Check out the list of books below that have been recommended by your English 1 teachers! A detailed synopsis of each book can be found at the end of this document.

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

Internment by Samira Ahmed

One of Us Is Lying by Karen McManus

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

Looking for Alaska by John Green

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Swing by Kwame Alexander

The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey

The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

The Martian by Andy Weir

The Truth About Alice by Jennifer Mathieu

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han

Incoming 9th Grade Pre-AP

Students enrolled in 9th Grade Pre-AP English are **required** to read **ONE** book from those listed below. Students may read a second book for extra credit.

I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai and Christine Lamb

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

Snowflower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

Circe by Madeline Miller

Students will complete a project the first week of school that will require them to demonstrate a thorough understanding of their book by analyzing the characters and plot using text evidence. Incoming 9th Grade Pre-AP students should visit bhspap1summerreading.com for more information about the books and assignment specifications.

Students may contact the following teachers with any questions about the assignment:

- Ms. Tomlinson (Academic and College Prep): ktomlins@houstonisd.org
- Ms. Chapman (Pre-AP): echapman@houstonisd.org

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Adeyemi creates a rich, compelling Nigerian fantasy bursting with action, adventure, and magic. At one point in time, Orisha was brimming with maji (those who possess magic) but under the king's orders, maji were slain and rid of in order to bring about peace. Zélie knows magic isn't meant to be buried, nor is it as bad as the king makes it out to be. Thrown into an unexpected adventure, Zélie, her brother, and Princess Amari must travel and escape impending danger to outwit the crown prince Inan in order to save magic — and themselves.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

Angie Thomas's sophomore release follows 16-year-old Bri, who wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. But as the daughter of an underground rap legend, Bri's got big shoes to fill. And with bills piling up and homelessness staring her family down, Bri no longer just wants to make it — she has to make it.

Swing by Kwame Alexander

Walt is convinced junior year is their year, and he has a plan to help them woo the girls of their dreams and become amazing athletes. Never mind that he and Noah failed to make the high school baseball team yet again, and Noah's love interest since third grade, Sam, has him firmly in the friend zone. Noah soon finds himself navigating the worlds of jazz, batting cages, the strange advice of Walt's Dairy Queen-employed cousin, as well as Walt's "Hug Life" mentality. Status quo seems inevitable until Noah stumbles on a stash of old love letters. Each page contains the words he's always wanted to say to Sam, and he begins secretly creating artwork using the lines that speak his heart. But when his private artwork becomes public, Noah has a decision to make: continue his life in the dugout and possibly lose the girl forever, or take a swing and finally speak out? At the same time, numerous American flags are being left around town. While some think it's a harmless prank and others see it as a form of peaceful protest, Noah can't shake the feeling something bigger is happening to his community. Especially after he witnesses events that hint divides and prejudices run deeper than he realized.

Internment by Samira Ahmed

Set in a near-future United States, this book centers on Layla Amin and her parents, who are forced into an internment camp for Muslim Americans. With the help of friends within the camp and her boyfriend on the outside, Layla leads a revolution against the camp's Director and his guards.

The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey

After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one.

Now, it's the dawn of the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Who have scattered Earth's last survivors. To stay alone is to stay alive, Cassie believes, until she meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan Walker may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother—or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose: between trust and despair, between defiance and surrender, between life and death. To give up or to get up.

One of Us Is Lying by Karen McManus

Pay close attention and you might solve this.

On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Bronwyn, the brain, is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule.

Addy, the beauty, is the picture-perfect homecoming princess.
Nate, the criminal, is already on probation for dealing.
Cooper, the athlete, is the all-star baseball pitcher.
And Simon, the outcast, is the creator of Bayview High's notorious gossip app.

Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose?

Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you would go to protect them.

The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

Natasha: I'm a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. Or dreams that will never come true. I'm definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. Not when my family is twelve hours away from being deported to Jamaica. Falling in love with him won't be my story.

Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents' high expectations. Never the poet. Or the dreamer. But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store—for both of us.

The Universe: Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true?

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin is six years old when it begins. He will grow up fast.

But Ender is not the only result of the experiment. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway almost as long. Ender's two older siblings, Peter and Valentine, are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. While Peter was too uncontrollably violent, Valentine very nearly lacks the capability for violence altogether. Neither was found suitable for the military's purpose. But they are driven by their jealousy of Ender, and by their inbred drive for power. Peter seeks to control the political process, to become a ruler. Valentine's abilities turn more toward the subtle control of the beliefs of commoner and elite alike, through powerfully convincing essays. Hiding their youth and identities behind the anonymity of the computer networks, these two begin working together to shape the destiny of Earth—an Earth that has no future at all if their brother Ender fails.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky, *Perks* follows observant "wallflower" Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

The Martian by Andy Weir

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars.

Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there.

After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive—and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive.

Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first.

But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills — and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit — he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

The Truth About Alice by Jennifer Mathieu

Everyone knows Alice slept with two guys at one party.

But did you know Alice was sexting Brandon when he crashed his car?

It's true. Ask ANYBODY.

Rumor has it that Alice Franklin is a slut. It's written all over the bathroom stall at Healy High for everyone to see. And after star quarterback Brandon Fitzsimmons dies in a car accident, the rumors start to spiral out of control.

In this remarkable debut novel, four Healy High students — the girl who has the infamous party, the car accident survivor, the former best friend, and the boy next door — tell all they know.

But exactly what is the truth about Alice? In the end there's only one person to ask: Alice herself.

Looking for Alaska by John Green

Before. Miles "Pudge" Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big non-event, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave "the Great Perhaps" even more (Francois Rabelais, poet). He heads off to the sometimes crazy and anything-but-boring world of Culver Creek Boarding School, and his life becomes the opposite of safe. Because down the hall is Alaska Young. The gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed up, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young. She is an event unto herself. She pulls Pudge into her world, launches him into the Great Perhaps, and steals his heart. Then. . . .

After. Nothing is ever the same.

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han

To All the Boys I've Loved Before is the story of Lara Jean, who has never openly admitted her crushes, but instead wrote each boy a letter about how she felt, sealed it, and hid it in a box under her bed.

But one day Lara Jean discovers that somehow her secret box of letters has been mailed, causing all her crushes from her past to confront her about the letters: her first kiss, the boy from summer camp, even her sister's ex-boyfriend, Josh.

As she learns to deal with her past loves face to face, Lara Jean discovers that something good may come out of these letters after all.