

McKinley High School

Summer Reading Assignment 9th Grade Gifted & Great Scholars

Choose one book to read from each genre. That means you have to read at least one of the nonfiction selections and at least one of the fiction selections.

Fiction (choose one):

Lord of the Flies by William Golding- Lost on an island, young survivors of a plane crash eventually revert to savagery despite the few rational boys' attempts to prevent that.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee-Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge, and his kids against prejudice.

Looking for Alaska by John Green-Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words—and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet Francois Rabelais called the “Great Perhaps.” Much awaits Miles at Culver Creek, including Alaska Young. Clever, funny, screwed-up, and dead sexy, Alaska will pull Miles into her labyrinth and catapult him into the Great Perhaps.

13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher- Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers thirteen cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker, his classmate and crush who committed suicide two weeks earlier. On tape, Hannah explains that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out how he made the list.

Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver-For popular high school senior Samantha Kingston, February 12—“Cupid Day”—should be one big party, a day of valentines and roses and the privileges that come with being at the top of the social pyramid. And it is...until she dies in a terrible accident that night.

Nonfiction (choose one):

My Thirteenth Winter by Samantha Abee- This honest, hopeful autobiography tells of Samantha's experience with dyscalculia, a learning disorder that also devastated her self-esteem. “An interesting mix of factual information and memories.”—SLJ

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. *I Am Malala* will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

Four Perfect Pebbles by Lila Pearl and Marion Blumenthal Lazan- If she could find four perfect pebbles of almost exactly the same size and shape, it meant that her family would remain whole. Mama and papa and she and Albert would survive Bergen-Belsen. The four of them might even survive the Nazis' attempt to destroy every last Jew in Europe.

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin-Based on the true story of a white reporter who, at the height of the civil-rights movement, temporarily darkened his skin so that he could experience the realities of a black man's life in the segregated South.

Summer Reading Assignment

- I. Bring in sticky notes (15-20) with page numbers from the book on each note, the main idea or plot event and two details about the event or main idea or any literary devices that may be used with explanation on each sticky note.
- II. You will keep a reader's journal on each summer reading book you choose. Be prepared to submit the assignment the first week of school along with your sticky notes. This journal will serve as a window for the teacher to see what you are thinking and how you are connecting to the books.

Requirements:

You are to find significant quotes throughout the book. There must be a total of 3 quotes per book, and they should cover the scope of the book. In other words, spread them out through the beginning, middle and end of the book. Provide the following information for each quote:

Fiction

- a. complete quote, page number and paragraph number
- b. identify who said the quote
- c. explain what it reveals about the character or the situation (paragraph long)
- d. discuss the message along with any literary devices present (symbolism, metaphor, simile, personification, etc.) (1 paragraph long)
- e. make a personal connection (paragraph long)

Nonfiction

- a. complete quote, page number, and paragraph number
- b. explain what the quote reveals or how it is significant to the book (paragraph long)
- c. what lesson about life/moral does it reveal (paragraph long)
- d. make a personal connection (paragraph long)

Be prepared to complete a project about the books once school starts.