

2021 PHS Grade 9 CP Genre Studies Summer Reading Assignment

*Incoming ninth grade Genre Studies students are **required** to read at least one book this summer. **College Prep** students must choose a book on this list and answer **three** of the questions below. It is recommended that all students take notes while they are reading. Your response to each question must be one-two fully developed paragraphs, including specific details. Your typed responses will be submitted to **turnitin.com** the first full week of school, and this assessment will count as a grade for the first marking period.*

1. What happens in the story? If it is fiction, draw a plot triangle and label it (climax, resolution, rising action, etc.) If it is non-fiction, identify what the author discusses in each chapter or section of the book. Discuss some of the significant episodes or incidents that occur in the story.
2. Who are the most important characters/people? Identify the protagonist / antagonist. Write down information and characteristics about each one.
3. What kinds of conflicts does the plot contain or the characters/people encounter? (The conflict types include character vs. character, character vs. self, character vs nature, character vs. God / supernatural force, character vs. society, character vs. machine). Explain in detail how these conflicts affect the characters.
4. Where does the story take place? Provide specific information about the place, time, and social context of the book. Is the setting important?
5. What are some of the important symbols in the book? What kinds of objects does the author describe frequently?
6. Identify any other noteworthy literary techniques (satire, tone, flashback, foreshadowing, etc.) the author utilizes. Explain their significance in the book.
7. What is the meaning of the title of the book?
8. What do you think that the author's theme or message is? What is he/she/they trying to tell you by writing this book? How do you know?

Grade 9 Genre Studies CP Summer Reading Titles

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon**

A teenage boy with Asperger's Syndrome plies his relentless logic to discovering who killed a neighbor's dog, and his mystery story becomes more complicated than he could have ever predicted. (Fiction)

***The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon**

Over the course of a single day in New York City, two teenagers who have nothing in common randomly meet and fall in love. Now I know that sounds absurdly cliché, but somehow in Nicola Yoon's hands, it doesn't read that way. Natasha is a practical young woman trying to keep her family from being deported in a matter of hours. Daniel is a poet at heart, but on this day he is dutifully making good on his familial commitment to a college interview. The two are inexplicably drawn to each other and somehow their paths keep converging. The novel is told in alternating points of view, and one of the special touches of Yoon's book are the chapters narrated by people who are unintentionally part of Natasha and Daniel's story, mirroring our almost spooky interconnectedness. *The Sun is Also a Star* is a thought-provoking story of possibility, fate, and the illogical beauty of love. (Fiction)

***The Five People You Meet In Heaven* by Mitch Albom**

Eddie is a grizzled war veteran who feels trapped in a meaningless life of fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. His days are a dull routine of work, loneliness, and regret. Then, on his 83rd birthday, Eddie dies in a tragic accident, trying to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakens in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a lush Garden of Eden, but a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people. These people may have been loved ones or distant strangers. Yet each of them changed your path forever. (Fiction)

***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. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. But what Starr does - or does not - say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life. (Fiction)

***Kill Shakespeare* by Conor McCreery**

This dark take on the Bard pits his greatest heroes (Hamlet, Juliet, Othello Falstaff) against his most menacing villains (Richard III, Lady Macbeth, Iago) in an epic adventure to find and kill a reclusive wizard named William Shakespeare. All 12 issues, collected in one complete volume. (Graphic Novel)

***Tomboy* by Liz Prince**

Growing up, Liz Prince wasn't a girly girl, dressing in pink tutus or playing pretty princess like the other girls in her neighborhood. But she wasn't exactly one of the guys, either. She was somewhere in between. But with the forces of middle school, high school, parents, friendship, and romance pulling her this way and that, "the middle" wasn't exactly an easy place to be. *Tomboy* follows award-winning author and artist Liz Prince through her early years and explores--with humor, honesty, and poignancy--what it means to "be a girl." (Graphic Novel)

***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah**

In Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. (Nonfiction)

***Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam* by Elizabeth Partridge**

It's the personal stories of eight people—six American soldiers, one American military nurse, and one Vietnamese refugee—that create the heartbeat of Boots on the Ground. From dense jungles and terrifying firefights to chaotic helicopter rescues and harrowing escapes, each individual experience reveals a different facet of the war and moves us forward in time. Alternating with these chapters are profiles of key American leaders and events, reminding us of all that was happening at home during the war, including peace protests, presidential scandals, and veterans' struggles to acclimate to life after Vietnam. (Nonfiction)

***Obsessed: A Memoir of My Life with OCD* by Allison Britz**

Until sophomore year of high school, fifteen-year-old Allison Britz lived a comfortable life in an idyllic town. She was a dedicated student with tons of extracurricular activities, friends, and loving parents at home. But after awakening from a vivid nightmare in which she was diagnosed with brain cancer, she was convinced the dream had been a warning. Allison believed that she must do something to stop the cancer in her dream from becoming a reality. Unable to act “normal,” the once-popular Allison became an outcast. Finally, she allowed herself to ask for help and was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder. This brave memoir tracks Allison's descent and ultimately hopeful climb out of the depths. (Nonfiction)

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah**

This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this and survived. (Nonfiction)

***Eleven Seconds* by Travis Roy and E.M. Swift**

In this heartfelt testament to the power of love and the strength of the human spirit, Travis Roy, who suffered a devastating injury eleven seconds into his first college hockey game, reveals how he has managed to cope after the accident and, with the help of family and friends, overcome tremendous barriers to begin a new life. (Nonfiction)

**** As this is a list aimed at high school level students, some of the books address mature ideas and issues. Please preview the books before making your selections so that you are not surprised by the content.**