



**Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading**  
**Students Entering Grade 9**  
**Summer 2018**

**Instructions:** All students entering grade 9 are expected to read the required text and one selection from the list of choices.

**Essential Questions:** Use these questions to guide your reading. See the Grade 9 Note Template on the summer reading website.

- What characterizes a hero?
- What is the nature of the journey and how is it transformative?
- How do stories reflect a society's culture, its morals, the nature of conflict, and the forces of good and evil?
- What are some universal truths of the human experience?
- What makes the individual humane?

Required Text for Grade 9		
Author	Title	Synopsis
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. <b>From Publishers Weekly</b>
Grade 9 Choices (Select 1)		
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. <b>From School Library Journal</b>
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. <b>From goodreads.com</b>
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. <b>From Amazon.com</b>

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
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. <b>School Library Journal Review on Amazon.com</b>
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. <b>Amazon.com Review</b>
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. <b>Amazon.com</b>
Steinbeck	<i>The Pearl</i>	Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the Kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security...A story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folk tale, <i>The Pearl</i> explores the secrets of man's nature, the darkest depths of evil, and the luminous possibilities of love. <b>Amazon.com Product Description</b>
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. <b>Amazon.com Product Description</b>
Thomas	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Angie Thomas’s searing debut about an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty. <b>School Library Journal Review</b>
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. <b>School Library Journal Review on Amazon.com</b>