

## Grade 9

### Summer Reading Directions

1. From the attached list, choose **ONE** book to read, **in addition to the *required English book***. If you wish, you may read up to five books for credit, but at a minimum you must read the mandatory English book and then one additional book of your choosing. If you read more than two books, they must be in different disciplines. The mandatory English book will **not** be for extra credit. When choosing additional books, you may only choose to read books for subjects in which you are enrolled. For example, if your elective is Introduction to Acting, you cannot read the art book. You must also complete the mandatory math and grammar packets that are posted online.
2. Follow the directions in each department for completing the assignment for each book.
3. These assignments are due on September 5, 2025.
4. Students will receive extra credit for their assignments in the subject area in which they have read. For example, if a student reads a book from the social studies selections, she will receive credit in her social studies class. Extra credit will be added to the first quarter average for each satisfactory assignment. No credit will be added for an unsatisfactory assignment. Major consideration will be:
  - a. Does this assignment provide evidence that the student has read and understood the book?
  - b. Is the response carefully presented, neat, and well organized?
5. Students who do not read the required books and complete the assignments for each will be required to do this reading during the first semester. They will not receive extra credit and will not be able to take midterms until this requirement is met.
6. Integrity and honesty are important values encouraged in every aspect of the IHA experience. While completing your assignment, be careful to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is using another's words or ideas as one's own. More than three words copied without quotation marks from a book, Internet site, or other source constitutes plagiarism. To avoid plagiarism, use quotation marks if you copy a line directly, and give credit to a writer if you use his or her ideas, even if you have changed the wording. The use of AI is considered plagiarism.
7. In homeroom, you will be given a summer reading card to hand in to the teacher with your project or writing prompt, so that proper credit will be given.

## ART

### Art 1 (optional)

***Where the Light Gathers*** by Kathryn Pressman (Delphine Books, 2019)

It is a time of tumultuous change in fifteenth-century Florence. At the crossroads of art, politics, and culture, painter Filippo Lippi struggles against a dark well of sorrow to create luminous paintings that will help usher in the Renaissance. *Where the Light Gathers* interweaves well-researched fact with fiction, bringing to life the man behind the paintings and revealing the reasoning that inspires his most reckless decisions. We witness not only his capacity to endure, but also the seed of light that illuminates his way forward. If you like historical fiction, art history, political intrigue, and exploring the psychological motives of real-world figures, you will love this novel.

Instructions for this book:

- On the second day of Art 1 in September, students will be given 30 minutes to respond to a writing prompt about their choice. Students may bring to class a 5" x 7" index card with handwritten notes about the book to assist in completing the essay. \*\*Note if your class is the second semester, you will still do the writing prompt in September. Your art teacher will reach out to you after you submit your card in homeroom.

***Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain Starter Kit: The Definitive*** by Betty Edwards (Tarcher Perigee Publishers, 2013)

Edwards uses the latest in brain research to explain how anyone can learn to draw more accurately and creatively. Students will read the book and use the companion workbook to enhance their drawing skills in preparation for advanced-level drawing courses. The workbook contains forty new exercises that cover each of the five basic skills of drawing. Each practice session includes a brief explanation and instructional drawings, suggestions for materials, sample drawings, and blank pages for the reader's own drawings. Also provided in this workbook is a pullout viewfinder, a crucial tool for effective practice. While *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* focused primarily on portrait drawing with pencil, this workbook gives readers experience in various subject matter — still life, landscape, and imaginative drawing — using alternative mediums such as pen and ink, charcoal, and conté crayon.

Instructions for this book:

- Complete 15 exercises during summer break.

## ENGLISH

Students in grade 9 **must complete** the following reading. During the first week of English class in September, students will take a test on this book.

### Grade 9 – English (Mandatory)

#### English I CP and English I CPE (Required)

***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina — a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come. (Goodreads)

#### English I Honors (Required)

***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a novel by Harper Lee published in 1960. Instantly successful, widely read in high schools and middle schools in the United States, it has become a classic of modern American literature, winning the Pulitzer Prize. The plot and characters are loosely based on Lee's observations of her family, her neighbors and an event that occurred near her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, in 1936, when she was ten.

# THEOLOGY

## Grade 9 - Theology I (optional)

***Blessed are the Bored in Spirit*** by Mark Hart (2006, published by Servant)

ISBN # 978-0-86716-677-4

Description:

*Blessed are the Bored in Spirit* by Mark Hart is a humorous reflection in which the author stresses the view that God is not calling the reader to be a person who merely follows the rules, but rather a transformed person in Jesus Christ. The book challenges the reader to take a closer look at their personal lives while inviting and offering suggestions on how to live as a disciple of Jesus. Please type and print out your answers. Each response should be no *shorter* than a 4-5 sentence paragraph. You may use a hardcover Bible or an online one. Make sure it is the Catholic New Revised Standard. You can use this website and type in the passages:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-Catholic-Edition-NRSVCE-Bible/>

Assignment

1. Chapter 1 - Look up the following passage in the Bible Acts 9:1-9. Complete the following questions: What does the passage mean to you? How does it relate to you and your life.
2. Chapter 2 - Look up the following passage in the Bible 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Complete the following questions: What does the passage mean to you? How does it relate to you and your life?
3. Chapter 3 - Make a list of all the things you do on the average Sunday. Think about how many of them draw you closer to God. Select one of the suggestions on pg. 49-50 of the text, how could you incorporate the suggestion into your life? Explain how you might do this.
4. Chapter 4 - How is God the author of your life? Do you see your life as a story God is writing or is God just a character in your life story? Explain your response using specific examples.
5. Chapter 4 - List five external and five internal qualities about you. How has God played a role in giving you these qualities/talents/gifts?
6. Chapter 5 - What is your understanding of John 15:19; "living in the world, not of the world."
7. Chapter 5 - Choose three commandments on page 68 and identify how you could fulfill each of these in your personal life. Be specific in your response, keeping in mind that you are 13/14 years old.
8. Chapter 6 - How does virtual reality found in music, TV, and social media give you a false sense of the real world?
9. Chapter 7 - What is your understanding of James 4:8? Describe an experience in your life when God has drawn close to you in times of difficulty, pain, or suffering.
10. Chapter 8 - From the Scripture passages on pg. 110-111, write a detailed description of a disciple of Christ.

## SCIENCE

### Grade 9 - Biology Honors, and Biology CPE (optional)

***The Honey Bus*** by Meredith May

An unforgettable story about finding home in the most unusual of places, and how a tiny, little-understood insect could save a life. Meredith May recalls the first time a honeybee crawled on her arm. She was five years old, her parents had recently split and suddenly she found herself in the care of her grandfather, an eccentric beekeeper who made honey in a rusty old military bus in the yard. That first close encounter was at once terrifying and exhilarating for May. Everything she needed to know about life and family was right before her eyes, in the secret world of bees. May turned to her grandfather and the art of beekeeping as an escape from her troubled reality. The bees became a guiding force in May's life, teaching her about family and survival, and it was during this pivotal time in May's childhood that she learned to take care of herself. Part family story, part beekeeping odyssey, *The Honey Bus* is a rich and lyrical memoir of a girl who journeyed into the hive — and found herself.

Assignment:

To receive credit for reading and possible extra credit for your first quarter grade, be prepared on the day summer reading is due to write a response in your biology class to the book you read.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Grade 9 - World History CPE (optional)

Assignment: To receive credit for reading and possible extra credit for your first quarter grade, be prepared on the day summer reading is due to write a response in your World History CPE class to the book you read.

#### ***Revolution*** by Jennifer Donnelly

This novel crosses three centuries and follows the stories of two girls struggling with the circumstances of their lives. Andi is a rebellious modern teenager on a visit to Paris and Alexandrine is a French girl living at the time of the French Revolution and an aspiring actress. When Andi discovers Alexandrine's diary, past and present merge. *Revolution* is described as a "feast of a novel, rich in mood, character, and emotion" by the *School Library Journal*.

#### ***All Quiet on the Western Front*** by Eric Maria Remarque

An antiwar novel set during World War I, it was written after the war and reflects the disillusionment of the period. The book is an account of a young man's experiences in battle and of his short career as a soldier. It details the daily routine of soldiers who seem to have no past or future apart from their life in the trenches. The book was an immediate international success. The author became an enemy of the Nazi Government and they burned his books in protest of his anti-war point of view.

#### ***A Year of Wonders – A Novel*** by Geraldine Brooks

An unforgettable tale of a brave young woman during the plague in 17th-century England is described as an unforgettable read. When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes, we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition. As death reaches into every household and villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must find the strength to confront the disintegration of her community and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles to survive and grow, a year of catastrophe becomes instead *annus mirabilis*, a "year of wonders."

### **Grade 9 - World History Honors (optional)**

Assignment: To receive credit for reading and possible extra credit for your first quarter grade, be prepared on the day summer reading is due to write a response in your World History Honors class to the book you read.

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## TECHNOLOGY

### **Computer Programming and Intro to Engineering Design (optional)**

Assignment: On the day summer reading is due, be prepared to write a response to a prompt in class on the book. If you are scheduled for the class in the spring, reach out to Mrs. Dolan during the first week of school and arrange a time to do the prompt in September.

### ***How We Got to Now* by Steven Johnson**

In this illustrated history, Steven Johnson explores the history of innovation over centuries, tracing facets of modern life (refrigeration, clocks, and eyeglass lenses, to name a few) from their creation by hobbyists, amateurs, and entrepreneurs to their unintended historical consequences. Filled with surprising stories of accidental genius and brilliant mistakes — from the French publisher who invented the phonograph before Edison but forgot to include playback, to the Hollywood movie star who helped invent the technology behind Wi-Fi and Bluetooth — *How We Got to Now* investigates the secret history behind the everyday objects of contemporary life.



## WORLD LANGUAGE

### World Language Requirements:

- Be prepared to meet with your teacher in the first or second week of the new school year.
- You will prepare a typed set of 10 discussion questions and their answers. This is a requirement.
- Teacher will collect and evaluate students' work and set a meeting day to discuss the assigned book.
- You will have these typed questions in your possession when you meet with a discussion group.
- Be prepared to discuss the following:
  - What are the cultural implications of this book?
  - Be familiar with the title, author, setting, characters, conflicts, resolution, and how the plot relates to your studies of the language.
- You will be graded based on the quality of your questions/answers, your active discussion in the group and your ability to respond to specifics regarding the book.

### Italian I CPE (optional)

***How to Be Italian: Eat, Drink, Dress, Travel and Love La Dolce Vita*** by Maria Pasquale

Is it pausing to enjoy an aperitivo or gelato? A passeggiata down a laneway steeped in history? An August spent tanning at the beach?

This book is a celebration of the Italian lifestyle — an education in drinking to savor the moment, traveling indulgently, and cherishing food and culture. A lesson in the dolce far niente: the sweetness of doing nothing. We may not all live in the Bel Paese, but anyone can learn from the rich tapestry of life on the boot.

From the innovation of Italian fashion and design, the Golden Age of its cinema, to the Roman Empire's cultural echoes (and some very good espresso), take a dip into the Italian psyche and learn to eat, love, dress, think, and have fun as only the Italians can.

### Italian I Honors (optional)

***It Happened in Italy*** by Elizabeth Bettina

Imagine Elizabeth Bettina's surprise when she discovered that her grandmother's village had a secret: over a half century ago, many of Campagna's residents defied the Nazis and risked their lives to shelter and save *hundreds* of Jews during the Holocaust. What followed her discovery became an adventure as she uncovered fascinating untold stories of Jews in Italy during World War II and the many Italians who risked everything to save them. ([www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com))

### Italian II CPE (optional)

***Taste – My Life through Food*** by Stanley Tucci

Stanley Tucci grew up in an Italian American family that spent every night around the kitchen table. He shared the magic of those meals with us in *The Tucci Cookbook* and *The Tucci Table*, and now he takes us beyond the savory recipes and into the compelling stories behind them. *Taste* is a reflection on the intersection of food and life, filled with anecdotes about his growing up in Westchester, New York; preparing for and shooting the foodie films *Big Night* and *Julie & Julia*; falling in love over dinner; and teaming up with his wife to create meals for a multitude of children. Each morsel of this gastronomic journey through good times and bad, five-star meals and burned dishes, is as heartfelt and delicious as the last.

### **French I CPE and I Honors (optional)**

***Sarah's Key*** by Tatiana de Rosnay (Publisher: St Martin's Press, 2007)\*

This story happens in Paris in 1942, where Jewish families are being arrested day and night. Sarah wants to protect her younger brother and locks him in a closet. She promises to return for him. Sixty years later, Julia Jarmond, an American journalist, investigated the roundup and she discovers the whole truth about Sarah and her brother.

### **French II CPE and II Honors (optional)**

***The Little Prince: A French/English Bilingual Reader*** (English and French Edition) Paperback – January 1, 2011 by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY, the "Winged Poet," was born in Lyon, France, in 1900. A pilot at twenty-six, he was a pioneer of commercial aviation and flew in the Spanish Civil War and World War II. His writings include *The Little Prince*, *Wind, Sand and Stars*, *Night Flight*, *Southern Mail*, and *Airman's Odyssey*. In 1944, while flying a reconnaissance mission for his French air squadron, he disappeared over the Mediterranean.

### **Spanish I CPE and I Honors: (optional)**

***Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Publisher: Scholastic May 1, 2002

A sudden tragedy forces Esperanza, a wealthy young Mexican girl who has grown up on a ranch called El Rancho de las Rosas in Mexico, to flee to California with her mother during the Great Depression and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Hers is a story of struggles, perseverance, and hope.

### **Spanish II CPE and Spanish II Honors: (optional)**

***Cuba 15*** by Nancy Osa. (Publisher: Random House March 8, 2005)

Violet Paz's Cuban grandmother is determined that she will have a Quinceañera, a Cuban celebration on her fifteenth birthday. Violet doesn't feel Cuban — or Polish (her ancestry on her mother's side). She just feels American. In trying to please her Cuban grandmother, she begins to question her roots, leading to some unexpected consequences for her whole family.

### **Spanish III H: (optional)**

#### **The Spanish Queen: A Novel of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, Paperback**

When young Catherine of Aragon, proud daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, is sent to England to marry the weak Prince Arthur, she is unprepared for all that awaits her: early widowhood, the challenge of warfare with the invading Scots, and the ultimately futile attempt to provide the realm with a prince to secure the succession. She marries Arthur's energetic, athletic brother Henry, only to encounter fresh obstacles, chief among them Henry's infatuation with the alluring but wayward Anne Boleyn.

In *The Spanish Queen*, bestselling novelist Carolly Erickson allows the strong-willed, redoubtable Queen Catherine to tell her own story — a tale that carries her from the scented gardens of Grenada to the craggy mountains of Wales to the conflict-ridden Tudor court. Surrounded by strong partisans among the English, and with the might of Spanish and imperial arms to defend her, Catherine soldiers on, until her union with King Henry is severed and she finds herself discarded — and tempted to take the most daring step of her life. (Goodreads)

### **Latin I Honors and Latin II Honors: (optional)**

#### **Lavinia by Ursula K. Le Guin. Publisher: Mariner Books, 2008.**

In *The Aeneid*, Virgil's hero fights to claim the king's daughter, Lavinia, with whom he is destined to found an empire. Lavinia herself never speaks a word. Now, Ursula K. Le Guin gives Lavinia a voice in a novel that takes us to the half-wild world of ancient Italy, when Rome was a muddy village near seven hills.

Lavinia grows up knowing nothing but peace and freedom, until suitors come. Her mother wants her to marry handsome, ambitious Turnus. But omens and prophecies spoken by the sacred springs say she must marry a foreigner — that she will be the cause of a bitter war — and that her husband will not live long. When a fleet of Trojan ships sails up the Tiber, Lavinia decides to take her destiny into her own hands. And so she tells us what Virgil did not: the story of her life, and of the love of her life.