

- **Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy – Schmidt:** In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers—and Turner’s—want to change into a tourist spot.
 - **Shattered: Stories of Children and War:** Presents twelve short stories by renown Young Adult authors about the experiences of young children and teenagers in war, showing a variety of perspectives, and provides factual notes on each conflict dramatized.
 - **Piratica: Being a Daring Tale of a Singular Girl's Adventure Upon the High Seas – Tanith:** Artemesia finally escapes the prim and proper world of finishing schools and sets out to win her mother's title as pirate queen.
 - **If You Come Softly – Woodson:** Miah and Ellie try to overcome the prejudice they encounter because of their interracial relationship.
- Subtlety and Reality! - Poetry and Nonfiction**
- **Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America – Almond:** Examines the modern candy industry, as well as it’s history, investigating the influence of corporate power on what sorts of chocolate bars survive.
 - **The Flying Book: Everything You’ve Ever Wondered About Flying on Airplanes – Blatner:** Provides a wealth of information about commercial flight, explaining how airplanes work, how they sometimes crash, how to survive an emergency, what goes on behind the scenes at an airline, how planes are build, and factors that affect the skyways, discussing the history of flying, and looking at other flying machines.
 - **Breathe: Yoga for Teens – Chryssicas:** Reviews the history of yoga, discusses breathing techniques, features photographs and descriptions of yoga poses, for a variety of purposes, such as building confidence, commanding respect, and sparking creativity.
 - **The Last Shot: City Streets, Basketball Dreams – Frey:** A reporter befriends a group of NYC teenagers including NBA player Stephon Marbury as they struggle to achieve the high school grades and athletic recognition they need to play Division I basketball.
 - **Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth – Giblin:** Tells the life stories of nineteenth-century actor Edwin Booth and his brother John Wilkes Booth, Abraham Lincoln’s assassin; describes their differences, and examining the impact of John’s crime on the Booth family for decades afterward.
 - **Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon – Thimesh.** Chronicles the Apollo 11 mission, the spaceflight that landed the first man on Earth's moon on July 20, 1969, emphasizing the contributions and reactions of the thousands of people who made the mission successful.

- **I Am Scout: The Biography of Harper Lee – Shields:** Find out who was behind *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- **Buying in: The Secret Dialogue Between What We Buy and Who We Are – Walker:** Explores how advertising agencies and marketers have taken advantage of the Internet and other technologies to sell their products to consumers. Suggests that we are not as “brand proof” as we think we are

*Most annotations are taken from the Summary statements in Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data.

ON THE WEB

<http://lii.org/>

- A reliable subject directory of useful sites reviewed and evaluated by librarians.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/bbyahome.cfm>

- Another list! *Best Books for Young Adults* from the Young Adult Library Services Association.

<http://www.alltheweb.com/?cat=news>

- A strong news site, including international events; keep abreast over the summer.



Winchester Thurston School

SUMMER READING Requirements and Recommendations



**For students entering
GRADE 9**

2009- 2010

www.winchesterthurston.org

Required Reading for Ninth Graders

The books listed must be read before school starts on August 27, 2009.

If the social studies, English, or the world languages and cultures class *title* for which you registered does not appear within your grade section, please consult the remaining grade sections (Spanish and French levels 4 and 5 (AP) require readings, for example).

English (American Literature)

Read two titles from the list below:

Into Thin Air – Krakauer

The House on Mango Street – Cisneros

The Secret Life of Bees – Kidd

Something Wicked This Way Comes – Bradbury

Bless Me, Ultima – Anaya

The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven – Alexie

Social Studies (Contemporary World History)

1984 – Orwell

Other Suggested Reading for Ninth Graders

Imaginations - Fiction

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* – **Alexie**: Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.
 - *For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy* – **Bradley**: A book based on the experiences a teenager in Nazi-occupied France, who worked as a spy for the French Resistance while training to be an opera singer.
 - *Summerland* – **Chabon**: The Ferishers, little creatures who ensure perfect weather for Summerland, are aided by one of history's worst baseball players in their struggle to save Summerland from giants, goblins, and other legendary, terrible creatures.
 - *Many Stones* – **Coman**: After Berry's older sister is murdered in South Africa, Berry's father insists that she accompany him back to the school where her sister volunteered.
 - *The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch* – **Delaney**: Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties."
 - *The Stolen Child* – **Donohue**: Henry Day, a boy stolen by changelings at the age of seven, and the look-alike hobgoblins sent to replace him, both grow up
- feeling out of place in their respective worlds—and their search for answers about their pasts puts them on a collision course decades later.
- *And Sometimes Why* – **Farrell**: Eighth grader Jack is confused when he finds his relationship changing with his best friend, an athletic girl named Chris who has suddenly become attractive.
 - *Thursday's Child* – **Hartnett**: A young woman recounts her farm family's poverty, her father's cowardice, and her younger brother's obsession for digging tunnels and living underground.
 - *Bunker 10* – **Henderson**: Something is going terribly wrong at the top secret Pinewood Military Installation, and the teenage geniuses who study and work there are about to discover a horrible truth as they lead a small military force trying to retrieve data and escape before the compound self-destructs.
 - *The Shamer's Daughter* – **Kaaberbol**: After her mother, a Shamer, is summoned to Dunark for a mission, ten-year-old Dina is forced to use her own special powers as she is caught up in an adventure of political intrigue and survival.
 - *Firestorm* – **Klass**: After learning that he has been sent from the future for a special purpose, eighteen-year-old Jack receives help from an unusual dog and a shape-shifting female fighter.
 - *Ghost Boy* – **Lawrence**: Unhappy in a home seemingly devoid of love, a fourteen-year-old albino boy who thinks of himself as Harold the Ghost runs away to join the circus, where he works with the elephants and searches for a sense of who he is.

- *Not the End of the World* – **McCaughrean**: Noah's daughter, daughters-in-law, sons, wife, and the animals describe what it was like to be aboard the ark while they watched everyone around them drown. The author includes unsparing details of muck, insanity, and savagery.
- *Crooked* – **McNeal**: Two ninth graders suddenly find their lives turned upside down by their families, by each other, and by the two meanest brothers in town.
- *The Hunter's Moon* – **Melling**: Two teenage cousins, one Irish, the other from the United States, set out to find a magic doorway to the Faraway Country, where humans must bow to the little people.
- *Marie, Dancing* – **Meyer**: A fictionalized autobiography of Marie Van Goethem, the impoverished student from the Paris Opera ballet school who became the model for Edgar Degas's famous sculpture, "The Little Dancer."
- *Sirena* – **Napoli**: The gods grant immortality to the mermaid Sirena when she rescues a human man from the sea and they fall in love, but his mortality creates great conflict between love and honor when he is called on to fight in the Trojan War.
- *East* – **Pattou**: In this retelling of "East of the Sun and West of the Moon," Rose treks to the extreme Arctic to rescue a white bear from the Troll Queen.
- *Melting Stones* – **Pierce**: Residents of the island of Starns send for help from Winding Circle temple, and when prickly green mage Rosethorn and young stone mage trainee Evvy respond, Evvy finds that the problem is with a long-dormant volcano and tries to use her talents to avert the looming destruction.