

**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.

**Coffeehouse Angel – Selfors:** Sixteen-year-old Katrina's kindness to a man she finds sleeping behind her grandmother's coffeehouse leads to a strange reward as Malcolm, who is actually a teenage guardian angel, insists on rewarding her by granting her deepest wish.

**Shattered: Stories of Children and War:** Presents twelve short stories by renowned 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.

### Poetry and Nonfiction

**Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America – Almond:** Examines the modern candy industry, as well as its 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 built, and factors that affect the skyways, discussing the history of flying, and looking at other flying machines.

**Breathe: Yoga for Teens – Chrissy:** 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.

**Classic Hikes of the World – Potterfield:** You will likely desire to get off your seat and hike after looking at these stunning images and detailed descriptions of worldwide hikes both short and extreme.

**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 exams the impact of John's crime on the Booth family for decades afterward.

**Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations – Harris:** Nineteen-year-old twins Alex and Brett Harris challenge teenagers to reject the "low expectations" of contemporary culture and "do hard things" for God, discussing the Bible and five ways to transform oneself and work for social change – the book is centered around the popular web site and movement "Rebelution" and offers food for thought even to those not particularly religious.

**I Am Scout: The Biography of Harper Lee – Shields:** Find out who was behind *To Kill a Mockingbird*. An excellent introduction to a famously reclusive artist.

**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.

**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.

### Recommended Websites

#### Ipl2

<http://www.ipl.org/>

A reliable subject directory of useful sites reviewed and evaluated by librarians. Recently became a site combining the Internet Public Library (IPL) and the Librarians' Internet Index (LII).

#### AlltheWeb from Yahoo

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

A strong news site that includes international events; Keep abreast over the summer.

#### Teensread

<http://www.teenreads.com/index.asp>

Teenreads.com bring teens info and features about their favorite authors, books, series and characters. It is a part of The Book Report Network, a group of websites founded in 1996 that share thoughtful book reviews, compelling features, and more.



Winchester Thurston School

## SUMMER READING Requirements and Recommendations



For students entering  
**GRADE 9**

2010-2011

[www.winchesterthurston.org](http://www.winchesterthurston.org)

## Required Reading for Ninth-Graders

### The books listed must be read before school starts on August 26, 2010.

If the Social Studies, English, or Modern and Classical Languages class *title* for which you registered does not appear within your grade section, please consult the remaining grade sections. (Spanish, French levels 4 and 5, and AP Latin require readings, for example.)

#### English (American Literature)

For English 9 (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

### Fiction

*Going Bovine* – **Bray**: Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen year-old who, after being diagnosed with Creutzfeldt Jakob's (a.k.a. mad cow) disease, sets off on a road trip with a death-obsessed video gaming dwarf he meets in the hospital in an attempt to find a cure. A positively disjointed book about a journey whose outcome is unpredictable. Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for best novel for young adults.

*A Curse Dark as Gold* – **Bunce**: Upon the death of her father, seventeen-year-old Charlotte struggles to keep the family's woolen mill running in the face of an overwhelming mortgage and what the local villagers believe is a curse, but when a man capable of spinning straw into gold appears on the scene she must decide if his help is worth the price. This mix of fairy tale and historical fiction is subtly complex, as evidenced by its excellent character development and unpredictable plotting.

*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 beasts."

*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.

*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.

*Pretty Monsters* – **Link**: A collection of monster stories from Kelly Link, Some quirky, some grotesque, features selections entitled "The Faery Handbag," in which an old woman carries an entire village

around in her purse; as well as "The Surfer," and others.

*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.

*The Great Wide Sea* – **Herlong**: Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea. Great detail if you like sailing!

*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. Napoli consistently creates thoughtful and accessible retellings.

*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.