

Welcome to 9th Grade Honors Literature and Composition! Students who are most successful in this course are students who are naturally inclined to read challenging texts during their free time. Our 2018-2019 AP Language students compiled the following list of suggested texts. While we do not expect you to read one specific text over the summer, we hope you will take advantage of at least one text suggested by students who recently had success in this course.

1. *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

We suggest this book because it is a very straightforward introduction to analyzing texts for symbolism, metaphors, and other literary devices. This book also has an engaging plot, so it won't be boring to read.

2. *Freakonomics* by Stephen J. Dubner and Steven Levitt

Understanding the world through statistics, the impact of miniscule things on the world, and facts rather than common myths. Overall, it is an interesting read approaching the political climate of America in a mature manner by providing enough information for you to understand a variety of topics without getting overwhelmed.

3. *House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

This book is an easy read because it's YA and has an interesting plot. It prepares you for basic literary analysis skills like characterization.

4. *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories* by James Finn Garner

Politically Correct Bedtime Stories by James Finn Garner is a satirical remake of well known fairy tales, with emphasis on political correctness. It also offers a different perspective from the traditionally accepted points of view in the fairy tales. It is a short, fun, and easy read.

5. *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

We suggest this as a transition from 8th grade literature, seeing that an abridged play is usually read as an introduction to historical works. This is a direct source and written in a manner easily understood by teenagers because of the nature of the book's author. It's more impactful than the play because of the source's voice embedded within the piece.

6. *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Seeing that 9th graders are expected to delve deeper into Orwell's works during the school year, *Animal Farm* will operate as an introduction into the mindset of the author. While the symbolism is difficult to comprehend at times, reading this book in relation to its timeline will help with that.

7. Shakespeare's Sonnets

Since there will be a study on Shakespeare later in the year (*Romeo and Juliet*), we recommend that you find just a few sonnets by Shakespeare in order to get your feet wet in understanding his writing style. Some notable sonnets include Sonnet 18, Sonnet 116, and Sonnet 130. Of course, feel free to find more.

8. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

This young adult book that focuses on the importance of friendship in the midst of chaos going on in the main characters life. The book is focused on Nazi Germany and will help rising 9th Honor students as they will be immersed into heavy and controversial social topics as the year progresses.

9. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

This novel is set in the 1800s and will provide an insightful look into this time period. It will also help students get familiar with historical fiction/writing while also providing an interesting narrative. In addition, it showcases the multiple perspectives and opinions of women during the 1800s along with bigger themes that still apply to the modern world.

10. *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke

It's hard to see books as more interesting than TV shows, but the *Space Odyssey* provides thrill and sensation you can't experience by simply "seeing". You start to consider things—how you came to be in your world—hearing thumps of neanderthals and experiencing evolution of the human conflict from our territorial instinct to the coming of war. As you travel past the human timeline you'll realize that the book's fantasy exists in you, unbounded by its pages.

11. Collection of Short Stories of Isaac Asimov

It is a great collection of interesting sci-fi short stories that show what is wrong with society.

Understanding that authors try to point out the faults in society is one of the most important concepts in 9th Honours Literature. One of the greatest sci-fi writers that ever existed, Asimov's books give insight into the genre of sci-fi, and we think that you'll love it.

12. *The Luminous Dead* by Caitlin Starling

It's a sci-fi novel about a lady in a cave who develops stockholm syndrome, and it also holds a good deal of symbolism.