



The mission of Branford High School is to prepare students to be independent and collaborative learners who are responsible, informed, and contributing members of society. In partnership with the community, we strive to provide a learning environment that supports all student in embracing diversity, acting with integrity, and achieving their personal and academic potential.

Branford High School Summer Reading Grade 9

The books on this list have been chosen to complement the novels, themes, and essential questions that you will cover in *English 9* or *Civilization & Literature*. The following questions will be discussed throughout the year. Consider them as you read this summer.

- *What does the literature we read teach us about responsibilities, choices, and the consequences of our actions?*
- *What have people across different cultures done to search for their identity and seek to understand others?*
- *What is our true human nature?*

NOTE TO PARENTS: Before selecting a book, please review it with your child to determine if it is appropriate. Several websites, including commonsensemedia.org and Amazon.com, offer reviews of literature to help parents and students make the right selection for them.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

This *New York Times* bestselling novel and National Book Award nominee from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. Fiction.

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The Unlikely Hero of 13B by Teresa Toten

Filled with moments of deep emotion and unexpected humor, this understated and wise novel explores the complexities of living with OCD and offers the prospect of hope, happiness and healing. Fiction.

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Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut

One of the world's great anti-war books. Centering on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know. A modern classic on many college and high school reading lists. Fiction.

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A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah

The author, now a child-rights advocate, recounts his experiences as a boy drafted into soldiering in Sierra Leone in the 1990s and shows how an individual's life can be changed by both interior and exterior forces. Non fiction.

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All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

This classic novel tells the story of German schoolboys-turned-soldiers fighting on the Western during World War I as they struggle with the extreme physical and mental stress while also just trying to stay alive. Fiction.

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Running For My Life by Lopoz Lomong

The inspirational true story of Lopez Lomong, who chronicles his inspiring ascent from a barefoot lost boy of the Sudanese Civil War to a Nike sponsored athlete on the US Olympic Team. Non fiction.

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Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

This is Emily Brontë's classic tale of gothic star-crossed love and obsession. Catherine and Heathcliff are tormented lovers torn apart by convention and deceit, leaving a tangled legacy of hatred and love. Fiction.

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First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers by Loung Ung

From a childhood survivor of Cambodia's Pol Pot regime comes a narrative of war, desperation, and strength. Harrowing yet hopeful, Loung's powerful story is an unforgettable account of a family shaken and shattered, yet miraculously sustained by courage and love in the face of unspeakable brutality. Non fiction.

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Swallowing Stones by Joyce McDonald

When 17-year-old Michael discovers that he has accidentally killed the father of a schoolmate, he wrestles with his own guilt until he can no longer keep his terrible secret. A compassionate story focusing on both the killer and the family left to grieve the loss of a father and husband. Fiction.

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How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents by Julia Alvarez

After fleeing the Dominican Republic with their family, the Garcia girls try to lose themselves--by forgetting their Spanish, by straightening their hair and wearing fringed bell bottoms. For them, it is at once liberating and excruciating being caught between the old world and the new, trying to live up to their father's version of honor while accommodating the expectations of their American boyfriends. Fiction.

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The Nazi Hunters by Neal Bascomb

The true story of the hunt for and arrest of Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution. Survivor Simon Wiesenthal opened Eichmann's case; a blind Argentinean and his teenage daughter provided crucial information. Finally, the Israeli spies -- many of whom lost family in the Holocaust -- embarked on their daring mission, recounted here in full. Non fiction.

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Zoya's Story by John Folian

A tale of struggle and suffering under the Taliban and their predecessors, from a courageous freedom fighter who has become an international spokesperson for the Afghan people. Non fiction.

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No Choirboy: murder, violence and teenagers on death row by Susan Kuklin

Kuklin tells five stories here; four are about young men who committed murder before they reached the age of 18, and one is the story of a victim's family. Each narrative presents a picture of a troubled youth who did something he later regretted, but something that could not be undone. Within these deftly painted portraits, readers also see individuals who have grown beyond the adolescents who committed the crimes. Non fiction.

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I am Malala: The girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

This is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. Non fiction.

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http://bhseenglish.wikispaces.com/summer_reading