

All incoming freshmen are assigned The Alchemist. The side list is attached.

Current/ Rising 9th Grade Suggested Reading

Author	Title	Grade	Lexile
Anaya, Rudolfo	<i>Bless Me Ultima</i> Antonio Márez matures into an adult while helping Ultima, a curandera, battle the witchcraft of the three daughters of Tenorio Trementina.	10	840
Caletti, Deb	<i>Wild Roses</i> In Washington State, seventeen-year-old Cassie learns about the good and bad sides of both love and genius while living with her mother and brilliant, yet disturbed, violinist stepfather and falling in love with a gifted young musician.	10	NA
Chang, Pang-Mei N.	<i>Bound Feet & Western Dress</i> Stories of the author's great aunt, growing up in the years between the fall of the last emperor and the Communist revolution, alternate with the author's own search for identity, belonging, and her family heritage.	10	NA
Chbosky, Stephen	<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> Prone to depression, shy, introverted, on the fringes of everything, Charlie is a wallflower who, with the help of friends Samantha and Patrick, comes to terms with life and learns to interact.	10	720
Cooper, Susan	<i>The Dark is Rising</i> Will Stanton discovers the role he must play in the struggle to overcome the powers of the Dark.	10	920
Coy, John	<i>Crackback</i> Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.	10	490
Craven, Margaret	<i>I Heard the Owl Call My Name</i> A young priest with a short time to live is sent to a parish of Kwakiutl Indians, where he learns not to fear death.	10	1080
Crichton, Michael	<i>Andromeda Strain</i> A team of scientists struggles to define and contain a deadly bacteria brought back from outer space by a satellite.	10	840
Crutcher, Chris	<i>Whale Talk</i> Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.	10	1000
Dueker, Carl	<i>Runner</i> Living with his alcoholic father on a broken-down sailboat on Puget Sound has been hard on seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor, but when his love of running leads to a high-paying job, he quickly learns that the money is not worth the risk.	10	670
Ferguson, Alane	<i>The Christopher Killer</i> On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.	10	800
Gaines, Ernest J.	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> A young illiterate African American man witnesses two black robbers kill a white store owner in Louisiana in the late 1940s, and he is the one convicted.	10	750

Geras, Adele	Troy Told from the point of view of the women of Troy, the novel portrays the last weeks of the Trojan War, when women are sick of tending the wounded, men are tired of fighting, and bored gods and goddesses find ways to stir things up.	10	670
Gordimer, Nadine	My Son's Story Will, an adolescent black South African, finds his already unsettled relationship with his father further confused by his father's political activism and his affair with a young white woman.	10	1030
Guest, Judith	Ordinary People 17-year-old Conrad Jarrett, just returned from 8 months in a mental institution after a suicide attempt, tries to pick up his life at home and at school.	10	600
Guterson, David	Snow Falling on Cedars After returning from internment and trying to get his land back, Kabuo Miyomoto is arrested and tried for the murder of Carl Heine.	10	1080
Hamilton, Edith	Mythology A collection of Greek and Roman myths arranged in sections on the gods and early heroes, love and adventure stories, the Trojan war, and a brief section on Norse mythology.	10	NA
Hammett, Dashiell	The Maltese Falcon A murder involves Sam Spade in a dangerous search for a valuable statue.	10	760
Heller, Joseph	Catch-22 Captain Yossarian and other pilots on a small Mediterranean island in World War II face inconsistencies in military rules.	10	1140
Hersey, John	Hiroshima The classic tale of the day the first atom bomb was dropped offers a haunting evocation of the memories of survivors and an appeal to the conscience of humanity.	10	NA
Hesse, Hermann	Siddhartha Hesse blends elements of psychoanalysis and Asian religions to probe an Indian aristocrat's efforts to renounce sensual and material pleasures and discover ultimate spiritual truths.	10	1010
Horowitz, Anthony	Myths and Legends Thirty-five stories from around the world, mostly myths from ancient Greece, but also tales from the Norse, Chinese, English, and American Indians.	10	NA
Huxley, Aldous	Brave New World Huxley's classic prophetic novel describes the socialized horrors of a futuristic utopia devoid of individual freedom.	10	870
Hyder, Said	Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story A typical American high school student spends three summers in Afghanistan helping his father, a friend of the President of Afghanistan.	10	NA
Joravsky, Ben	Hoop Dreams: A True Story of Hardship and Triumph Arthur Agee's and William Gates' remarkable lives were chronicled by a team of filmmakers. Roughly 250 hours of film were devoted to their journeys from the playgrounds to high school competition to college recruitment and — whittled down to three hours — it became the award-winning film Hoop Dreams.	10	NA
Kidd, Sue Monk	The Secret Life of Bees Young Lily Owens seizes an opportunity to leave behind her father and their South Carolina peach farm. Traveling with her nanny, Rosaleen, Lily encounters the Boatwrights, a trio of beekeeping sisters, who fold the girl into their strange, secret world.	10	840
Kogawa, Joy	Obasan Pearl Harbor changes life in Vancouver for Naomi Nakane when the government takes property from her relatives and interns them.	10	990

Lahiri, Jhumpa	Interpreter of Maladies A debut collection of short fiction blends elements of Indian traditions with the complexities of American culture.	10	NA
McBride, James	Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother An African American man describes life as the son of a white mother and black father, reflecting on his mother's contributions to his life and his confusion over his own identity.	10	NA
McCaffrey, Anne	Dragonflight Lessa is the last of the noble bloodline of Ruatha Hold. The dragonriders rescue her from servitude while searching for likely candidates to impress the new dragon queen.	10	940
Meyer, Stephanie	Twilight When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.	10	720
Murdock, Catherine Gilbert	Dairy Queen After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.	10	990
Paolini, Christopher	Eragon A poor farm boy finds a polished blue stone in the forest, and thinks it is a lucky discovery; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself.	10	710
Pfeffer, Susan Beth	Life as We Knew It Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.	10	770
Quinn, Daniel	Ishmael A man and a great ape conduct a series of philosophical conversations in a work that presents a new vision of evolution and humankind and asks the question: does the Earth belong to humans, or do humans belong to the Earth?	10	NA
Rees, Douglas	Vampire High When his family moves from California to New Sodom, Massachusetts and Cody enters Vlad Dracul Magnet School, many things seem strange, from the dark-haired, pale-skinned, supernaturally strong students to Charon, the wolf who guides him around campus on the first day.	10	620
Sebold, Alice	Lovely Bones Susie Salmon is already in heaven. As she looks down from this strange new place, she tells us, in the fresh and spirited voice of a fourteen-year-old girl, a tale that is both haunting and full of hope.	10	890
Tolkien, J.R.R.	The Hobbit Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.	10	1000
Volponi, Paul	Black and White Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.	10	710
Zusak, Markus	Book Thief Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help	10	730

	sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.		
Levine, Karen	<i>A Survival Guide for Cosmetologist: Tips from the Trenches</i> A collection of tips, insight, and real-life experiences from seasoned cosmetologists about how to survive and thrive in the industry.	10	N/A
Connelly, Michael	<i>The Poet</i> When his homicide-detective brother suddenly kills himself, Jack McEvoy, crime reporter for the Denver Post, undertakes an investigative report into police suicides, only to uncover a sinister pattern that leads to a devious serial cop killer called "the Poet."	10	AD
Ray, Jeanne	<i>Eat Cake</i> Ruth draws on her talent for concocting delectable cakes and desserts when her family begins to disintegrate around her--her husband loses his job, her mother moves in, and her long-estranged father shows up at the door with no place to go.	10	AD
Stewart, Martha	<i>The Martha Rules : 10 Essentials for Achieving Success as You Start, Build, or Manage a Business</i> offers proven strategies and practical advice to encourage men and women to pursue their business dreams.	10	N/A
Trump, Donald	<i>Trump Never Give Up-How I Turned my Biggest Challenges into Success</i> discusses some of the biggest challenges Trump has faced in his career, tells how he has managed to turn defeat into victory, and offers tips on how to prepare for obstacles.	10	N/A
Albom, Mitch	<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i> A sportswriter conveys the wisdom of his late mentor, professor Morrie Schwartz, recounting their weekly conversations as Schwartz lay dying.	10	830
Davis, Sampson, Jenkins, Hunt	<i>The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream</i> presents the true story of three African-American kids from the inner city of Newark, New Jersey, who made a pact to support each other as they rose from an environment of poverty, crime, and drugs, and went on to become successful doctors.	10	940
Picoult, Jodi	<i>My Sister's Keeper</i> Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate.	10	840
Salisbury, Gay and Laney	<i>The Cruellest Miles</i> tells the story of the Serum Run, a relay of dog sleds and drivers that was organized to traverse nearly seven hundred miles in temperatures far below zero in a desperate quest to acquire serum to treat a deadly outbreak of diphtheria in Nome, Alaska in 1925.	10	AD
Sell, Colleen	<i>A Cup of Comfort for Nurses: Stories of Caring and Compassion</i> is a compilation of anecdotes for and about nurses.	10	AD