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NINTH GRADE RECOMMENDED READING LIST

2018-2019 | OPPL.ORG/KIDS

FICTION

Amateau, Gigi. *Come August, Come Freedom: The Bellows, the Gallows, and the Black General Gabriel*. This work imagines the childhood and youth of “Prosser’s Gabriel,” a courageous and intelligent blacksmith in post-Revolutionary Richmond, Virginia, who roused thousands of African-Americans slaves like himself to rebel.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*. In a futuristic world, Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship or rescue the girl.

Brennan, Sarah Rees. *In Other Lands*. Elliott, a human in a fantasy world where he attends a school for warriors and diplomatic advisors, determines that the concepts of friendship and world peace may actually be possible.

Chokshi, Roshani. *The Star-Touched Queen*. Sixteen-year-old Maya’s arranged marriage turns out much better than she expected, but her husband’s magic—and her curiosity—may threaten more than her life.

Colbert, Brandy. *Little & Lion*. Returning home to Los Angeles from boarding school, Suzette grapples with her bisexuality when she and her brother Lionel fall in love with the same girl.

Cordova, Zoraida. *Labyrinth Lost*. Alex is the most powerful witch in her family, even though she’s hated magic ever since it made her father disappear. When an attempt to rid herself of magic makes her

family vanish, she must travel to a strange, dark land called Los Lagos to get them.

Dimaline, Cherie. *The Marrow Thieves*. Frenchie and other indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to the ability to dream, something most of the population has lost in this dystopian tale.

Garcia, Cristina. *Dreams of Significant Girls*. In the 1970s, a teenaged Iranian princess, a German-Canadian girl, and a Cuban-Jewish girl from New York City become friends when they spend three summers at a Swiss boarding school.

Lacour, Nina. *We Are Okay*. After leaving her life behind to go to college in New York, Marin must face the truth about the tragedy that happened in the final weeks of summer.

Lake, Nick. *In Darkness*. In the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, 15-year-old Shorty, a poor gang member, is trapped in the rubble of a ruined hospital.

Medina, Meg. *Burn Baby Burn*. Nora Lopez is 17 during the summer of 1977, when New York is besieged by arson, a massive blackout, and a serial killer named Son of Sam. Meg Medina transports us to a time when tempers and temperatures ran high to share the story of a young woman who discovers that the greatest dangers are often closer than we like to admit.

Menon, Sandhya. *When Dimple Met Rishi*. When Dimple and Rishi meet at a Stanford University summer program, Dimple is avoiding her parents’ obsession with “marriage prospects” but Rishi hopes

to woo her into accepting an arranged marriage with him.

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down*. As Will sets out to avenge his brother Shawn’s fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.

Russo, Meredith. *If I Was Your Girl*. When Amanda Hardy moves to Tennessee, she wants to start fresh and leave her past behind her in Atlanta. Worried about her safety and her new friends’ acceptance, she guards her heart until she starts falling for Grant and finds herself longing to open up her life to him.

Sepetys, Ruta. *Between Shades of Gray*. In 1941, 15-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their home and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death. While she fights for her life, she vows to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar.

Smith, Dodie. *I Capture the Castle*. The 1934 journal of Cassandra Mortmain reveals her perspective on six stormy months in the eccentric and poverty-stricken life of her family while living in a ruined Suffolk castle.

Taylor, Laini. *Strange the Dreamer*. War orphan and junior librarian Lazlo Strange is obsessed with the lost city of Weep. When a stunning opportunity is offered, Lazlo seizes his chance to learn the city’s mysteries and enters a mythical world of monsters, treachery, and wonder.

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FICTION CONT.

Turtschaninoff, Maria. *Maresi*. As novice Maresi awaits the call to serve in one of the houses of the idyllic Red Abbey, a new arrival with a dark past requires Maresi to act in order to protect her new sister and the abbey.

White, Ellen Emerson. *A Season of Daring Greatly*. Eighteen-year-old Jill Cafferty just made history. Her high school's star pitcher, she is now the first woman drafted by a major league baseball team. Only days after her high school graduation, she'll join the Pittsburgh Pirates' Class A Short Season team...but not everyone is happy to have her there.

Winters, Cat. *The Cure for Dreaming*. In 1900, 17-year-old Olivia Mead, a suffragist, is hypnotized by the intriguing young Henri Reverie, who is paid by her father to make her more docile and womanly but who, instead, gives her the ability to see people's true natures.

NONFICTION

Charleyboy, Lisa. *#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women* (305.4889 NOT).

Jensen, Kelly. *Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World* (305.42 JEN).

Sheinkin, Steve. *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* (959.704 SHE).

Slater, Dashka. *The 57 Bus* (364.1555 SLA).

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Larson, Hope. *Mercury*. Josey's decision to hunt for treasure in the woods of Nova Scotia in the 1850s has haunting ramifications for her 21st-century descendant, Tara, who is trying to adjust to high school after being home-schooled.

North, Ryan. *Unbeatable Squirrel Girl*. Wolverine, Deadpool, Doctor Doom, Thanos: there's one hero that's beaten them all! (Not that she's bragging.) She's also starting college, a whole new battle.

Osborne, Melissa Jane. *The Wendy Project*. Sixteen-year-old Wendy crashes her car, killing her youngest brother, Michael. Wendy—a once rational teenager—shocks her family by insisting Michael is alive and in the custody of a mysterious flying boy.

Pope, Paul. *Battling Boy*. A young demigod is sent to help the people of Arcopolis, a city infested with monsters.

Prince, Liz. *Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir*. Eschewing female stereotypes throughout her early years and failing to gain acceptance on the boys' baseball team, Liz learns to embrace her own views on gender as she comes of age.

Shen, Prudence. *Nothing Can Possibly Go Wrong*. The unlikely friendship of Charlie, the laid-back captain of the basketball team, and Nate, the neurotic scheming president of the robotics club, nearly bites the dust when Nate declares war on the cheerleaders and they retaliate by making Charlie their figurehead in an ugly class election.

Wilson, G. Willow. *Ms. Marvel*. Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City—until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts.

Yumi, Kiiko. *Library Wars: Love & War* (series). Iku Kasahara has dreamed of joining the Library Defense Force ever since one of its soldiers stepped in to protect her favorite book from being confiscated in a bookstore when she was younger. But now that she's finally a recruit, she's finding her dream job to be a bit of a nightmare.