

9

NINTH GRADE RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2019-2020 | OPPL.ORG/KIDS

FICTION

Amateau, Gigi. *Come August, Come Freedom: The Bellows, the Gallows, and the Black General Gabriel* (TWEEN). 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* (TEEN). 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* (TEEN). 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.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Killer of Enemies* (TEEN). In a world that has barely survived an apocalypse that leaves it with pre-twentieth century technology, Lozen is a monster hunter for four tyrants who are holding her family hostage.

Chokshi, Roshani. *The Star-Touched Queen* (TEEN). 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* (TEEN). 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* (TEEN). 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* (TEEN). 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.

Lacour, Nina. *We Are Okay* (TEEN). 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.

Medina, Meg. *Burn Baby Burn* (TWEEN). 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* (TEEN). 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.

Ramos, Nonieqa. *The Disturbed Girl’s Dictionary* (TEEN). Macy’s school officially classifies her as “disturbed,” but Macy isn’t interested in how others

define her. She’s got more pressing problems: her mom can’t move off the couch, her dad’s in prison, her brother’s been kidnapped by Child Protective Services, and now her best friend isn’t speaking to her. Writing in a dictionary format, Macy explains the world in her own terms.

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down* (TEEN). 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.

Rivera, Lilliam. *The Education of Margot Sanchez* (TEEN). Pretty in Pink comes to the South Bronx in this bold and romantic coming-of-age novel about dysfunctional families, good and bad choices, and finding the courage to question everything you ever thought you wanted.

Russo, Meredith. *If I Was Your Girl* (TEEN). 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.

Smith, Dodie. *I Capture the Castle* (TEEN). 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* (TEEN). 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

continued on back



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9

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FICTION CONT.

enters a mythical world of monsters, treachery, and wonder.

Turtschaninoff, Maria. *Maresi* (TEEN). 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.

Watson, Renee and Ellen Hagan (TEEN). *Watch Us Rise*. Jasmine and Chelsea are sick of the way women are treated even at their progressive NYC high school, so they decide to start a Women's Rights Club. They post everything online and soon they go viral. But with success the club is also targeted by online trolls. Jasmine and Chelsea will risk everything for their voices—and those of other young women—to be heard.

White, Ellen Emerson. *A Season of Daring Greatly* (TWEEN). 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.

NONFICTION

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

Jensen, Kelly. *Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World* (TEEN 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* (TEEN 364.1555 SLA).

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Krosoczka, Jarret. *Hey, Kiddo* (TWEEN). Jarrett's family is complicated. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery and he lives with his grandparents—two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children.

Neri, G. *Grand Theft Horse* (TWEEN). Gail Ruffu was a rookie trainer known for her ability to handle dangerous horses. When the owners of the horse she's working won't accept that he'll be hurt by racing, she steals him and becomes a woman on the run, wanted by the law and fighting for the humane treatment of animals.

Osborne, Melissa Jane. *The Wendy Project* (TWEEN). 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* (TWEEN). A young demigod is sent to help the people of Arcopolis, a city infested with monsters.

Prince, Liz. *Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir* (TWEEN). 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.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Runaways: Find Your Way Home* (series, TWEEN). When the Runaways eliminate the villainous Pride from Los Angeles, it leaves a vacuum of power in the city's underworld, and soon Nico, Karolina, Gert, Chase, and Molly are on the run again to uncover the truth.

Shen, Prudence. *Nothing Can Possibly Go Wrong* (TWEEN). 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.

Tagame, Gengoroh. *My Brother's Husband* (TWEEN). Yaichi's life as a suburban dad in Tokyo is suddenly changed by the arrival of a hulking, affable Canadian named Mike Flanagan, the widower of Yaichi's estranged twin, Ryoji. Young Kana is fascinated by her new uncle, but Yaichi is having a harder time adjusting.