

RCPS Ninth Grade Summer Reading List

TITLE	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LEXILE	GENRE
<i>Navigating Early</i>	Clare Vanderpool	At the end of World War II, Jack Baker, a landlocked Kansas boy, is suddenly uprooted after his mother's death and placed in a boy's boarding school in Maine. There, Jack encounters Early Auden, the strangest of boys, who reads the number pi as a story and collects clippings about the sightings of a great black bear in the nearby mountains. Newcomer Jack feels lost yet can't help being drawn to Early, who won't believe what everyone accepts to be the truth about the Great Appalachian Bear, Timber Rattlesnakes, and the legendary school hero known as The Fish, who never returned from the war. When the boys find themselves unexpectedly alone at school, they embark on a quest on the Appalachian Trail in search of the great black bear.	790L	Fiction: Historical
<i>Rich Dad, Poor Dad</i>	Robert Kiyosaki	<i>Rich Dad, Poor Dad</i> is the story of author Robert Kiyosaki's upbringing in Hawaii and his two fathers – one rich father (not biological) and one poor father (biological). Kiyosaki was forced to choose between following in the footsteps of his poor father – a highly educated government worker – or his rich father – an entrepreneur who never graduated high school. Ultimately, Kiyosaki decides to learn from his rich dad - who wouldn't?	860L	Non-Fiction
<i>We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball</i>	Kadir Nelson	The story of Negro League baseball is the story of gifted athletes and determined owners; of racial discrimination and international sportsmanship; of fortunes won and lost; of triumphs and defeats on and off the field. It is a perfect mirror for the social and political history of black America in the first half of the twentieth century. But most of all, the story of the Negro Leagues is about hundreds of unsung heroes who overcame segregation, hatred, terrible conditions, and low pay to do the one thing they loved more than anything else in the world: play ball.	900L	Non-Fiction: History
<i>Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town</i>	Warren St. John	Just a few miles from Atlanta, Clarkston, Georgia became a settlement for families of refugees from war-torn countries. Soccer coach Luma Mufleh formed the Fugees, a soccer team consisting of boys from various countries and backgrounds. This inspiring book explores the array of challenges the team faced on and off the field and how determination prevailed.	980L	Non-Fiction
<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i>	James L. Swanson	Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, this fast-paced thriller that tells the story of the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth and gives a day-by-day account of the wild chase to find this killer and his accomplices. Based on James Swanson's bestselling adult book <i>Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer</i> , this young people's version is an accessible look at the assassination of a president, and shows readers Abraham Lincoln the man, the father, the husband, the friend, and how his death impacted those closest to him.	980L	Non-Fiction
<i>Whale Talk</i>	Cris Crutcher	There's bad news and good news about the Cutter High School swim team. The bad news is that they don't have a pool. The good news is that only one of them can swim anyway. A group of misfits brought together by T. J. Jones (the J is redundant) to find their places in a school that has no place for them, the Cutter All Night Mermen struggle to carve out their own turf. T. J. is convinced that a varsity letter jacket--unattainable for most, exclusive, revered, the symbol (as far as T. J. is concerned) of all that is screwed up at Cutter High--will be an effective carving tool. He's right. He's also wrong.	1000L	Fiction
<i>Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider</i>	Jean Fritz	Raised in the West Indies, Hamilton traveled to New York for his education in 1773 and became immersed in the political turmoil that led to the Revolutionary War. Joining the army as an artillery captain, he became an aide-de-camp to General Washington and led an attack at Yorktown. After the war, he served in Congress, at the Constitutional Convention, and as the first secretary of the treasury before sustaining a mortal wound in a duel with his longtime rival, Aaron Burr. Fast moving and engaging, this straightforward biography acknowledges Hamilton's flaws while portraying him as an intelligent, energetic man who rose to the challenge of his times. In addition to the black-and-white reproductions of period paintings and prints that illustrate the text, Schoenherr's striking, engraving-like images of Hamilton as scholar, soldier, aide-de-camp, statesman, and duelist introduce each section.	1030L	Non-Fiction
<i>Boy: Tales of Childhood</i>	Roald Dahl	<i>Boy</i> is a funny, insightful and at times macabre glimpse into the early life of Roald Dahl, one of the world's favorite authors. We discover his experiences of the English public school system, the idyllic paradise of summer holidays in Norway, the pleasures (and pains) of the sweetshop, and how it is that he avoided being a Boozer. This is the unadulterated childhood - sad and funny, sinister and delightful - that inspired the much-loved children's writer.	1090L	Non-Fiction: Biography