

## 9th Grade Summer Reading 2022-2023 (For GHCDs students entering the 9th grade)



*“Stories offer patterns of sound and association, of event and image. Suspended as listeners and readers in these patterns, we might reimagine our lives...”*

*–Barry Lopez*

The novelist Henry James famously observed that “*summer*” and “*afternoon*” are two of the most beautiful words in the English language. As you embark upon your summer adventures, I hope that your enjoyment of many a “*summer afternoon*” will be fortified and amplified by the power of great literature. To ensure that this happens, members of the Upper Division English Department have carefully chosen summer reading books that you are likely to enjoy and respond well to while also being pushed and challenged.

As you embark upon your summer reading journey, please keep in mind that to read a work of literature is to actively engage in a kind of imaginative collaboration with its author. Indeed, a text ultimately derives whatever “*meaning*” it might come to possess through the mysterious exchange that occurs between its author and its reader. It is when the reader’s creative intelligence engages with that of the writer’s, *effectively closing the imaginative circuit*, that a text’s meaning is disclosed. To open the pages of a great novel and begin reading is to enter into a creative partnership with its author. In the end, great literature has the power to impact the quality of your perception and to shape the way you see the world.

Literature can enhance and nourish your natural sensibilities in surprising and profound ways.

Finally, I would like you to consider what **Life of Pi** author Yann Martel has to say about the art of reading:

*“Books make us climb higher, and I always have my hand on a book, as if on a banister. But unlike some readers I know who effortlessly bound up stairs four steps at a time, floor after floor, never stopping to catch their breath, I creep up slowly. If there is an autobiographical character in my novel Life of Pi, it’s not Pi, it’s the sloth. To me a good book is like a rich lode of leaves and I can read only so many pages before my tummy gets full and I nod off. My banister is more of a branch and from it I hang up- side down, nursing the book that is feeding my dreams. I read it slowly, but continuously. Otherwise I would starve.”*

So, go off and find a proverbial branch from which to “*hang upside-down*” and spend your *summer afternoons* letting the nourishing lode of these great books feed your dreams. Have a great summer!

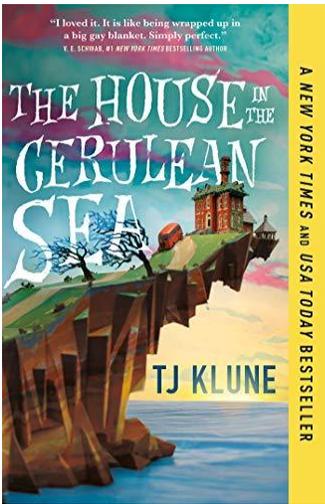
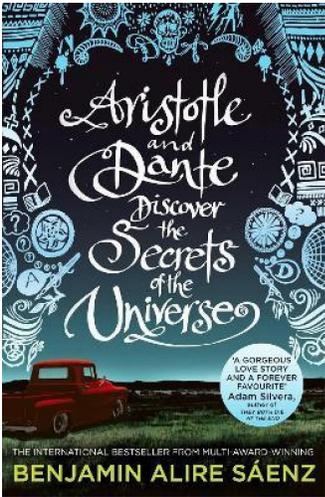
Sincerely,  
Mr. Canning

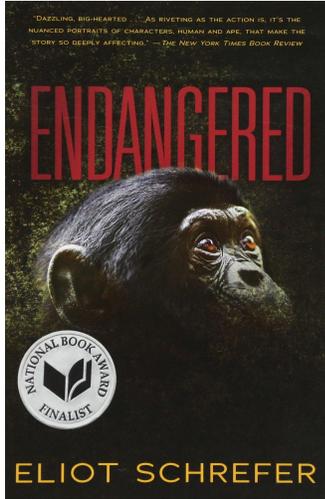
**\*Each student will complete an assessment and a project based upon these titles in the first week of the 2022 - 2023 school year.**

PS: If you have any questions about completing your summer reading assignments, feel free to email me at anytime over the summer months:

[JCanning@GHCDS.org](mailto:JCanning@GHCDS.org)

## English 9 Summer Reading List 2022-2023

Choose <b>one</b> of the following books to read this summer. .	
	<p><b>The House in the Cerulean Sea</b> (T.J. Klune)</p> <p>Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages.</p> <p>When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days.</p> <p>But the children aren't the only secret the island keeps. Their caretaker is the charming and enigmatic Arthur Parnassus, who will do anything to keep his wards safe. As Arthur and Linus grow closer, long-held secrets are exposed, and Linus must make a choice: destroy a home or watch the world burn.</p> <p>An enchanting story, masterfully told, <i>The House in the Cerulean Sea</i> is about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.</p>
	<p><b>Aristotle &amp; Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</b> (Benjamin Alire Saenz)</p> <p>Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.</p>



## Endangered (Eliot Schrefer)

From National Book Award Finalist Eliot Schrefer comes the compelling tale of a girl who must save a group of bonobos -- and herself -- from a violent coup. Congo is a dangerous place, even for people who are trying to do good. When Sophie has to visit her mother at her sanctuary for bonobos, she's not thrilled to be there. Then Otto, an infant bonobo, comes into her life, and for the first time she feels responsible for another creature. But peace does not last long for Sophie and Otto. When an armed revolution breaks out in the country, the sanctuary is attacked, and the two of them must escape unprepared into the jungle. Caught in the crosshairs of a lethal conflict, they must struggle to keep safe, to eat, and to live. In *ENDANGERED*, Eliot Schrefer plunges us into a heart-stopping exploration of the things we do to survive, the sacrifices we make to help others, and the tangled geography that ties us all, human and animal, together.