

# District Summer Reading List

Incoming Ninth Graders for the 2022 – 2023 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage students to read (or have read aloud) an approved novel that appeals to their own personal interests, instilling a love of reading as well as increasing literacy across the district. The following books were chosen based on many criteria, including reading level, content, interest, and more.

Students can choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below\*.

**Happy reading!**



| Title   | Author         | Genre   | Synopsis   |
|---|----------------|---------|--|
| <b><i>The Contender</i></b><br><br><i>Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account at <a href="https://archive.org/">https://archive.org/</a></i> | Robert Lipsyte | Fiction | Alfred Brooks is scared. He's a high school dropout and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. Some street kids are after him for something he didn't even do. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win, that makes the man -- that last desperate struggle to get back on your feet when you thought you were down for the count. |
| <b><i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i></b>   | Harper Lee     | Fiction | In <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , author Harper Lee uses memorable characters to explore civil rights and racism in the segregated Southern United States of the 1930s. Told through the eyes of Scout Finch, you learn about her father Atticus Finch, an attorney who hopelessly strives to prove the innocence of a black man unjustly accused of a crime; and about Boo Radley, a mysterious neighbor who saves Scout and her brother Jem from being killed.   |

\*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.

Images: <https://slidesmania.com/>

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***Little Women***

[Digital version](#)

Louisa  
May  
Alcott

Coming-of-  
Age Fiction

This novel follows the lives of four sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March – detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood, and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters. *Little Women* was an immediate commercial and critical success. It is a fiction novel for girls that veered from the normal writings for children, especially girls, at the time. The novel had three major themes: “domesticity, work, and true love, all of them interdependent and each necessary to the achievement of its heroine’s individual identity.”

*Little Women* itself “has been read as a romance or as a quest, or both. It has been read as a family drama that validates virtue over wealth.” *Little Women* has been read “as a means of escaping that life by women who knew its gender constraints only too well.” Alcott “combines many conventions of the sentimental novel with crucial ingredients of Romantic children’s fiction, creating a new form of which *Little Women* is a unique model.” Elbert argued that within *Little Women* can be found the first vision of the “American Girl” and that her multiple aspects are embodied in the differing March sisters.

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***Wuthering Heights***

[Digital version](#)

Emily  
Bronte

Fiction -  
Gothic  
Romance

*Wuthering Heights* is a wild, passionate story of the intense love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a foundling adopted by Catherine's father. After Mr. Earnshaw's death, Heathcliff is bullied and humiliated by Catherine's brother Hindley and wrongly believing that his love for Catherine is not reciprocated, leaves *Wuthering Heights*, only to return years later as a wealthy and polished man. He proceeds to exact a terrible revenge for his former miseries. The action of the story is chaotic and unremittingly violent, but the accomplished handling of a complex structure, the evocative descriptions of the lonely moorland setting and the poetic grandeur of vision combine to make this unique novel a masterpiece of English literature.

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