

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Suggested Additional Reading (Optional)

## FICTION

- *Catherine, Called Birdy*, Karen Cushman

Historical fiction set in 1290. Catherine's father is determined to marry her off to a rich man, and the one he has chosen is old, ugly, and revolting. What is a clever young maiden to do?

- *The Chosen*, Chaim Potok

Realistic fiction. When two Jewish boys living in New York—one Modern Orthodox and one Hasidic—become friends during WWII, a series of intellectual and spiritual clashes follows.

- *Coma*, Robin Cook

Medical thriller. A medical student uncovers a strange conspiracy when she investigates a series of sudden and unexplained comas.

- *Dune*, Frank Herbert

Science Fiction. As Paul Atreides struggles to survive on a desert planet, he must also avenge his father's murder and learn how to use his own strange powers. First in the famous series.

- *Flowers for Algernon*, Daniel Keyes

Science Fiction (sort of). After an experiment on a mouse named Algernon triples its intelligence, the same operation is performed on Charlie, a thirty-two-year old man.

- *How Green Was My Valley*, Richard Llewellyn

Realistic fiction. In this beautifully written book, a young Welsh miner watches his idyllic village become a scene of tragedy.

- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent*, Julia Alvarez

Realistic fiction. Four sisters face a strange new life in America when they are forced to flee the Dominican Republic.

- *In Country*, Bobbie Anne Mason

Realistic fiction. Sam Hughes, whose father was killed in the Vietnam War, comes to grips with the impact the war has had on her life when she visits the Vietnam War Memorial.

- *Lord Grizzly*, Frederick Manfred

Realistic fiction—Western adventure. Seeking revenge against faithless companions who had left him to die after a grizzly attack, a broken but determined mountain man and pioneer struggles through two hundred miles of wilderness.

- *The Middleman & Other Stories*, Bharati Mukherjee  
Realistic fiction; short stories. Writing from a variety of characters' viewpoints, Mukherjee explores how America is transformed by the cultures new immigrants bring to us, and how America changes its new members as well.
- *Miss Lonelyhearts*, Nathanael West  
Dark and comic; "a novel in the form of a comic strip," according to West. The author of an advice-to-the-lovelorn column in a large newspaper get tangled up in the lives of his readers.
- *Night Flight*, Antoine de Saint-Exupery  
Historical fiction—adventure story. In the early days of commercial aviation, a few brave men piloted planes, by night, across the treacherous and largely uncharted Andes.
- *Painted Bird*, Jerzy N. Kosinski  
Historical fiction. Abandoned by his parents, an abandoned child wanders alone through isolated villages of Eastern Europe during World War II.
- *Slaughterhouse Five; or, The Children's Crusade*, Kurt Vonnegut  
Science fiction (sort of). Billy Pilgrim narrates his strange life—he was a soldier in WWII and was later captured by aliens—in this frequently banned anti-war novel.
- *Taming the Star Runner*, S.E. Hinton  
Realistic fiction. When Travis gets in trouble with the law in his own city, he is sent to his uncle's ranch. By the author of *The Outsiders*.
- *The Wall*, John Hersey  
Historical fiction. Forty men and women try to escape from the horror of the Warsaw Ghetto in WWII Poland. By the author of *Hiroshima*.
- *War of the Worlds*, H.G. Wells  
Science Fiction. Martians have landed in Great Britain and they are NOT friendly. This book was turned into a famous radio broadcast, causing panic among listeners who thought the invasion was really happening.

## NONFICTION

- *Anne Frank Remembered: The Story of the Woman Who Helped to Hide the Frank Family*, Miep Gies with Alison Leslie Gold  
Memoir. Gies tells her own moving story, including her experiences as a WWI refugee and how she managed to protect and provide for Anne Frank's family for two years during WWII.

- *Biko*, Donald Woods

Biography. Woods, editor of the leading anti-apartheid newspaper in South Africa, fled the country before writing this book about the life, imprisonment, and suspicious death of Stephen Biko, a charismatic South African leader.

- *Days of Grace: A Memoir*, Arthur Ashe

Memoir. A tireless crusader for racial and social justice, a triumphant star in the all-white world of professional tennis, an outspoken voice on AIDS issues--Arthur Ashe was all of these and more.

- *To Destroy You Is No Loss: The Odyssey of a Cambodian Family*, Joan D. Criddle and Teeda Butt Mam

Autobiography. Mam was 15 when the Communist Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia in 1975 and began a program of genocide. After years of forced labor, Mam's family managed to escape to a refugee camp.

- *Yeager: An Autobiography*, Chuck Yeager and Leo Janos

U.S. Air Force General Chuck Yeager - World War II ace and the first man to break the sound barrier - candidly shares the drama of his life and career.

- *Daughter of Persia: A Woman's Journey from her Father's Harem through the Islamic Revolution*, Sattareh Farman Farmaian

Though Farman Farmaian was born and raised in a traditional Muslim family, her father was passionately committed to education and chose to ignore many of the Muslim restrictions for girls. She earned a college degree in America and returned to Iran to do social work. Twenty years later, when the Ayatollah Khomeini came into power, she faced possible execution as a "counter-revolutionary."