

All incoming English 9 Honors **students are required to read three books** in preparation for the school year. We will refer back to these texts throughout the year. These summer reading texts for both English 9 courses have been hand-selected because they are coming-of-age stories and are high-interest for this age group. Moreover, these texts connect with the themes we will discuss in English this year. The list includes a variety of genres to engage diverse interests, and range from historical fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, and mystery. Reading is meant to be enjoyable and engaging; therefore, I have worked with current and past ninth grade students to develop this list of texts that students have found relevant and that resonate with the 21st century teenage reader. My sincere hope is that you will connect with these texts on a personal level, whether this is through identifying with a character's adversity, seeing the world through the eyes of another, or understanding your own experiences in a new way.

Tips for Summer Reading:

- 1. Approach this task with a growth mindset! It doesn't matter if you love reading, or if you find reading challenging, you can complete this assignment. It is OK if you do not understand everything in these texts. Sit back and enjoy the process of entering into a different perspective or exploring a new world. This is what makes reading fun! And remember, if you find yourself grumbling about summer reading, remember that you are a student at Villa Duchesne, a challenging, college-preparatory school. You are preparing for college work even during the summer before your first year in high school. This is an opportunity to embody the qualities of a Villa graduate.
- 2. Support your local library; this is an affordable alternative to purchasing summer reading books. You will not need to bring a hardcopy of the book to class, so borrowing from the library is encouraged. Many libraries offer free audio versions of texts, so if you are an auditory reader, you may find listening along while reading might improve your comprehension. Audible is also a good resource for audiobooks, but this service costs additional money.
- 3. Annotation is *not required* for summer reading (please refrain from writing in library books!). But make note of the books you selected from the lists on the next page and be prepared to explain why you choose these books and what you learned from reading them.
- 4. Complete the reading guide that accompanies *Children of Blood and Bone* this is the only written component required for summer reading. The reading guide will be available on Finalsite the last week of May.

Required for all students: Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi is a YA (young-adult) fantasy novel about two young women from very different circumstances, Zelié, whose family has suffered greatly under a corrupt and oppressive king who despises magic, and Amari, the princess who flees after she witnesses her father's cruelty firsthand. The two characters meet and eventually unite to fight against injustice. Inan, Amari's older brother and dutiful prince, is tasked with hunting down his sister, which adds to the suspense of this cat-and-mouse chase. Zelié's brother Tzain joins the two young women on their journey to bring back

magic and fight King Saran. This inspiring tale of an unlikely friendship has everything: magic, heroism, mystery, action, and even romance. The novel is told from the perspective of three narrators, Zelié, Amari, and Inan. **There is a reading guide for this text that students should turn in the first week of class.**

Individual Choice**

Parents are encouraged to research individual choice texts, as the content varies. Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.com) is an excellent resource when selecting texts that are appropriate for your child to read based on your family's individual media guidelines. Parents are also encouraged to read the texts in tandem with their child, as this creates the opportunity for dialogue about what they are reading and how they are responding to the texts.

Select ONE book from this list	*The books on this list will coincide with the history curriculum
Contemporary Fiction -Turtles All the Way Down by John Green -Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu -One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus -Dumplin' by Julie Murphy -Furia by Yamile Saied Méndez -American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang (graphic novel) -We Were Liars by E. Lockhart -Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams -Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah Fantasy -The Belles by Dhonielle Clayton -The Hazelwood by Melissa Albert -The Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard (or other books from this series if you have already read it) -Children of Virtue and Vengeance by Tomi Adeyemi -Matched by Ally Condie (or other books from this series if you have already read it) -We Hunt the Flame by Hafsah Faizal (or other books from this series if you have already read it)	Historical Fiction -Dreamland Burning by Jennifer Latham -Code Name Verity or Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein -Cleopatra's Daughter by Michelle Moran -The Light in Hidden Places by Sharon Cameron Nonfiction -The Radium Girls by Kate Moore -The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix (graphic novel) -Ancient Rome on 5 Denarii a Day by Phillip Matyszak -We are Displaced: My Journey and and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World by Malala Yousafazi