

Springfield Public Schools
9th Grade Summer Reading List
2019

Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman's Inspirational True Story by Jodee Blanco

This shocking memoir details Jodee's school years which were dominated by bullying. In her work, Jodee Blanco tells how school became a frightening and painful place, where threats, humiliation, and assault were as much a part of her daily experience as homework and sports practice were for others. It is a brutally honest look at what it means to be ostracized, how even the most seemingly helpful parents don't understand, why schools sometimes fail, and how the impacts of bullying are sometimes underestimated, ignored and mishandled.

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes

Open Mike Friday is everyone's favorite day in Mr. Ward's English class. On Fridays, his 18 high-school students dare to relax long enough to let slip the poets, painters, readers, and dreamers that exist within each of them. Raul Ramirez longs "to show the beauty of our people, that we are not all *banditos* like they show on TV, munching *cuchfritos* and sipping beer through chipped teeth." Angry Tyrone Bittings finds dubious comfort in denying hope: "Life is cold. Future?...wish there was some future to talk about. I could use me some future." Overweight Janelle Battle hopes to be seen for what she really is: "for I am coconut / and the heart of me / is sweeter / than you know" They are all here: the tall girl, the tough-talking rapper, the jock, the beauty queen, the teenage mom, the artist, and many more.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic, fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret and shocking information about his family.

Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario In this astonishing true story, award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario recounts the unforgettable odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States.

Just Listen by Sarah Dessen Sixteen-year-old Annabel has not been truthful with her friends and is now socially isolated. Only Owen, her classmate with a passion for music, helps her face the truth about what really happened at the party that changed her life.

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld

Author Westerfeld re-imagines World War I in a fast-paced sci-fi text, where the Clankers battle the Darwinists. This "Steampunk" adventure that follows the protagonists around the world aboard the *Leviathan* blurs the line between what it means to be an enemy or an ally, and comes complete with black and white illustrations.

The Sweet Life of Stella Madison by Lara M. Zeises

Stella Madison's parents are in love with food. Her father is a famous French chef and her mother is a successful restaurant owner. However, Stella is not at all interested in becoming a "foodie," and is much more interested in hanging out with Max, her dependable and loyal boyfriend. In a twist of irony, Stella is offered a too-good-to-pass-up opportunity writing a food column for a local newspaper, and there she meets Jeremy, a dreamy, hunky intern who causes Stella to all but forget that she is in a relationship with Max. Who will Stella choose?

Timeline by Michael Crichton A group of present-day historians enter, literally, life in 14th Century feudal France. This novel combines a science of the future – the emerging field of quantum technology – with the complex realities of the medieval past. Imagine the risks of such a journey.

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell The war is over, Evie's stepfather is back home, and everything is back to normal—until a family vacation to Palm Beach unearths secrets that force Evie to question the people she's trusted the most. She learns that adults, even those closest to her, are not always what they seem. Evie becomes the adult in the group, motivated by truth and justice rather than greed or superficial appearances.