

# 2019 Summer Reading Choices for Students Entering Ninth Grade

You must read **TWO** of the following books. There will be a graded assessment the second week of school that will require you to know and write about your books.

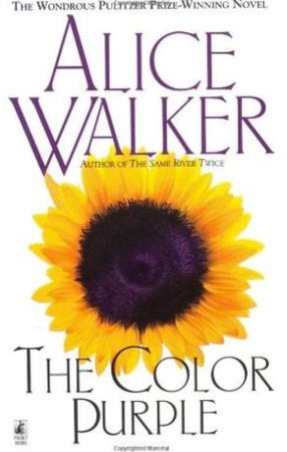
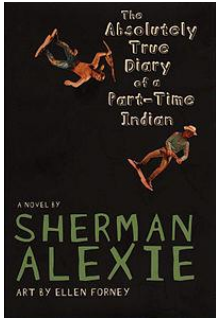
Each book has a difficulty level attached to it. Straight ahead novels will be accessible for those students reading below grade level. Uphill books are accessible to those on grade level and mountainous will challenge those students reading above grade level.

Plan in advance!

- All titles are available – new, used, and as E-books – at most online book retailers. Shop around for the cheapest price! (Used books can cost as little as \$4.00 with shipping on Amazon.)
- Before you drive to your local bookstore, call to see if it is in stock.
- The Buffalo library has limited quantities of each title..

## Disclaimers:

- Some selections are focused toward mature readers. We encourage parents to read the book descriptions carefully with their children and assist them in selecting interesting, appropriate titles for their summer reading.
- Film versions exist for some of these titles. While it is okay to watch the movie versions in conjunction with the text, it is not okay to assume that watching the movie version is a substitute for reading.

Book Title and Author	Description	Difficulty Level
<p><b>The Color Purple</b> Alice Walker Fiction</p>	 <p>THE WONDROUS PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NOVEL <b>ALICE WALKER</b> AUTHOR OF THE SAME RIVER TWICE <b>THE COLOR PURPLE</b></p> <p>This is the story of two sisters—one a missionary in Africa and the other a child wife living in the South—who sustain their loyalty to and trust in each other across time, distance, and silence.</p>	<p><b>Uphill</b> This classic novel is engaging and powerful but can be challenging based on the dialect and ideas.</p>
<p><b>Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian</b> Sherman Alexie Fiction</p>	 <p>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian A NOVEL BY <b>SHERMAN ALEXIE</b> ART BY ELLEN FORNEY</p> <p>Leaving the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white high school, Junior struggles to find his place in his new surroundings in order to escape his destiny back on the reservation</p>	<p><b>Straight Ahead</b> This young adult novel is engaging and interesting. It has pictures that illustrate the story</p>

Book Title and Author		Description	Difficulty Level
<b>Payback Time</b> Carl Deuker Fiction		Senior Daniel True is short, pale, and round. His former elementary school best friend, Horst Diamond, is the star quarterback at their Seattle high school. Mitch's ambition is to be an ace investigative reporter. While covering a practice, Mitch notices Angel Marichal. Angel is clearly the best athlete in the school, but McNulty keeps him hidden. Mitch knows that McNulty and Angel are hiding something, and he is determined to get to the bottom of it.	<b>Straight Ahead</b> The well-written game descriptions make this a great sports read; the mystery makes it a suspense- the best of both worlds!
<b>The Freedom Writers Diary</b> The Freedom Writers and Erin Gruwell Non-fiction		This work presents the lives of inner-city high school students in their own voices. The authentic language lends an immediacy and stark realism to their stories. The kids must fight all the negatives in their lives, such as violence, abuse, neglect, homelessness, and poverty, against the backdrop of the usual adolescent issues of maturation, friendships, schoolwork, and sexuality.	<b>Uphill</b> Fans of realistic stories about teenagers will love this read!
<b>Response</b> Paul Volponi Fiction		Noah and his friends go to a predominantly all-white neighborhood with a plan: steal a car, sell it to a chop shop, and make some fast cash. But that never happens. Instead, Noah, a teen father, becomes the victim of a vicious beating that leaves him with a fractured skull. The question is, was the attacker protecting his turf, or did he target Noah just because he's black?	<b>Straight Ahead</b> The accessible language, engaging story and critical topic make this a great read
<b>The Catcher in the Rye</b> J.D. Salinger Fiction		The hero-narrator of The Catcher in the Rye is a boy of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. He leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. A classic story of the transition from boy to adult and the chaotic journey that life takes him on.	<b>Mountainous</b> Salinger's language and style can be challenging to some but Holden's story is relatable.
<b>The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives</b> Neil Swidey Non-fiction		This book introduces us to Jack O'Brien, the near-legendary coach at Charlestown High School in Boston, whose life "seemed to begin and end with basketball." His devotion to his players' well-being helped keep them off the streets and, in many cases, secured them college scholarships. His successes, including four state championships in a row, derived in great part from a "tough love" approach.	<b>Mountainous</b> Slightly more challenging language but a great read for sports fans!