

## ***John C. Birdlebough High School Grade 9 Summer Reading List***

Please choose 1 book from the list. You will complete an assignment on the book you choose.

**Rating System:** If you are worried about mature content (coarse language, violence, and/or sexuality), please stick with a G or PG-rated book. Books with PG-13 will contain some mature content, and books that receive an R rating will contain many instances of mature language and content.

If you would like more information on the novels, please visit the following sites:  
[www.commonensemedia.org](http://www.commonensemedia.org) and [www.parentalbookreviews.com](http://www.parentalbookreviews.com).

**Flinn, Alex *Beastly***

**Date published: 2007                      320 pages                      580 Lexile                      Rated PG-13**

**Genre: Fantasy, Fairy Tale**

**Summary:** This modern retelling of Beauty and the Beast from the Beast's point of view is about a vain Manhattan private-school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.

**Forester, Victoria *The Girl Who Could Fly***

**Date published: 2008                      336 pages                      920 Lexile                      Rated PG**

**Genre: Fantasy**

**Summary:** Piper McCloud's ability to fly sets her apart from the other kids, so her mother sends her to an exclusive school for children with exceptional abilities, but even there she does not fit in with the other students.

**Graff, Lisa *A Tangle of Knots***

**Date published: 2013      240 pages      840 Lexile      Rated G**

**Genre: Fantasy**

**Summary: a multiple person narrative guides this twisty and turny story of talents, mysterious suitcases, and a pie-making contest.**

**Green, John *Looking for Alaska***

**Date Published: 2005      221 pages      930 Lexile      Rated R**

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**

**Summary: Miles leaves his home in Florida for a boarding school in Alabama. He is accepted by a smart group of pranksters who teach him about friendship and love.**

**Grogan, John *Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog***

**Date published: 2005      304 pages      1050 Lexile      Rated PG-13**

**Genre: Memoir, Comedy**

**Summary: John Grogan recounts the tale of his adventurous dog.**

**King, Stephen *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon***

**Date published: 1999      224 pages      1040 Lexile      Rated R**

**Genre: Fantasy, Horror**

**Summary: Nine-year-old Trisha McFarland wanders off by herself on a family hike and becomes hopelessly lost in the wilderness. Trisha has only her resourcefulness, bravery, and faith to help her survive.**

**Levithan, David *Every Day***

**Date published: 2012      325 pages      650 Lexile      Rated R**

**Genre: Fantasy**

**Summary: Every day since birth, A has woken up in a different body. Maybe a girl; maybe a boy—always interesting.**

**McNeal, Tom *Far Far Away***

**Date published: 2013      384 pages      790 Lexile      Rated PG 13**

**Genre: Fantasy**

**Summary: The ghost of Jacob Grimm knows he must protect Jeremy Johnson but he has no idea from whom or what.**

**Ralston, Aron *Between A Rock and A Hard Place***

**Date published: 2005      368 pages      1210 Lexile      Rated R**

**Genre: Adventure, Memoir**

**Summary: The author, Aron Ralston, recounts his harrowing experiences of being trapped for six days in Blue Canyon in Utah and having to amputate his own right arm in order to save his life.**

**Rowell, Rainbow *Eleanor and Park***

**Date published: 2013      328 pages      580 Lexile      Rated R**

**Genre: Young Adult, Realistic Fiction**

**Summary: A story with dual narratives: two misfits living in Omaha, Nebraska in the 80's form a connection through music and comic books.**

**Smith, Roland *Peak***

**Date published: 2008      256 pages      760 Lexile      Rated PG-13**

**Genre: Adventure, Realistic Fiction**

**Summary: A fourteen-year-old boy, who should be in jail for vandalism, attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.**

**Stewart, Trenton Lee *The Mysterious Benedict Society***

**Date published: 2009      400 pages      900 Lexile      Rated PG**

**Genre: Fantasy**

**Summary: After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where their mission is to stop the plan of the evil Ledroptha Curtain.**

**Tolkien, JRR *The Hobbit***

**Date published: 1937      320 pages      1000 Lexile      Rated PG**

**Genre: Fantasy**

**Summary: A mild-mannered Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who avoids adventure, is swept into a quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom from Smaug, a terrifying dragon.**

**Walls Jeanette *The Glass Castle***

**Date published: 2005      304 pages      1010 Lexile      Rated R**

**Genre: Memoir**

**Summary: The author recalls growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother.**

**Zevin, Gabrielle *Elsewhere***

**Date published: 2005      288 pages      720 Lexile      Rated PG-13**

**Genre: Young Adult, Fantasy**

**Summary: After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."**

**Zusak, Markus *I Am the Messenger***

**Date published: 2005      368 pages      640 Lexile      Rated R**

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**

**Summary: After thwarting a bank robbery, do-nothing, go-nowhere Ed Kennedy is challenged by an unknown benefactor to become a better person by helping those around him.**