

**Summer Reading, Grade 9**  
Downers Grove South High School  
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<b><u>Author</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
<b>Bradbury, Jennifer</b>	<b>Shift</b> The months of June, July and August are summer vacation for high school students across the United States. For Chris and Win, who have just graduated from high school, June is the month where they begin the journey of their lives - a cross country bike trip. August is the month they are supposed to return in order to go to college. When only Chris returns, he immediately comes under suspicion even though he claims not to know what happened to Win. The mystery of Win's disappearance is only one part of this adventure novel about friends, family and decisions.
<b>Bray, Libba</b>	<b>A Great and Terrible Beauty</b> Sixteen-year-old Gemma moves from India to a London boarding school after her mother's surprising murder. While trying to find ways to fit in with her peers and deal with her loss, Gemma discovers her supernatural powers and uses them to explore the mystery of her mother's death. A page-turner set in Victorian England, this gothic mystery deals with issues still relevant today: female roles, parenting styles and family expectations.
<b>Korman, Gordon</b>	<b>Pop</b> New kid in town Marcus just wants to play football. But his new school's football team has a perfect record and an intact starting lineup so there is no room for him. And it does not help that the quarterback's ex-girlfriend has taken an interest in Marcus. In an effort to prove his abilities, Marcus spends hours practicing in a park near his home and this is where he meets Charlie, a middle aged man who starts coaching Marcus. Charlie is an amazing football player who is retired from the NFL. But Charlie also expects Marcus to help him with the pranks he pulls around town. As time wears on, Marcus finds himself getting into more and more trouble, and it is always Charlie's fault. Marcus has to get to the bottom of why Charlie acts the way he does before he loses everything he cares about.
<b>Murdock, Catherine</b>	<b>Dairy Queen</b> D.J. Schwenk is having an awful summer. With her Dad injured, her Mom at work, and her brothers away at college, taking care of her family's farm on her own is more than she can handle. So when Brian Nelson is sent by a family friend to help out, her summer looks like it will become unbearable. Not only is he lazy but he is also the rival school's backup quarterback. Forced to work side by side, D.J. and Brian discover that their mutual love of football creates a bond between them. Their summer becomes one of sprints, weightlifting, football plays, and a change in attitude for both.

<b>Myers, Walter Dean</b>	<b>Sunrise Over Fallujah</b> Soon after 9/11, Robin Perry joins the army, and by 2003, he is in Iraq. Assigned to a civil affairs unit, Robin and his fellow soldiers attempt to help with the reconstruction of the country. He forms strong friendships with the members of his squad, especially the fun-loving and music-obsessed Jonesy and the beautiful but tough Marla. Despite the non-combat role of his unit, the group experiences seemingly random and intensely violent attacks that cause Robin to wonder about the purpose and outcome of the Iraq War.
<b>Ness, Patrick</b>	<b>The Knife of Never Letting Go</b> Imagine a world where the thoughts of others are not private but can be heard. Todd Hewitt lives on a settlement, Prentisstown, where the enemy has infected the men with a germ that broadcasts thoughts aloud for all to hear; a world dominated by NOISE. This same germ killed all the women. When Todd finds a pool of silence moving through the marshes at the edge of town he discovers that the source of that silence is a girl – Viola. Todd and Viola know that in order to survive they have to escape. The journey they undertake is fraught with danger. A compelling read, one that keeps readers turning the page to discover the secrets and enemies that Todd and Viola must confront if they are to succeed in saving not only themselves, but other innocent citizens.
<b>Parker, Robert</b>	<b>The Boxer and the Spy</b> Terry Novak is firmly convinced that his shy, artistic, non-athletic classmate, Jason Green, did not die from a steroid overdose. Newly empowered by his boxing workouts and the promise of a romantic relationship with his best friend, Abby, Terry determinedly pursues answers as to how and why Jason died. Facing serious threats and dangers, Terry, Abby, and their friends establish a cell phone surveillance organization to track those responsible.
<b>Tashjian, Janet</b>	<b>The Gospel According to Larry</b> Josh Swensen wants to save the world, but is too shy to speak out – so he creates a web site under the pen name Larry, where he posts his sermons about the flaws in our society – everything from consumerism to celebrity worship. His Web site quickly becomes a national phenomenon and "Larry" becomes a celebrity. Even his best friend Beth, with whom he is secretly in love, has become a fan. Josh is torn about whether to admit being Larry or keep his identity secret – until an obsessed fan makes the decision for him.
<b>Woodson, Jacqueline</b>	<b>If You Come Softly</b> Two students are new at Percy Academy, a private school in Manhattan. Jeremiah is a black boy from Brooklyn. Ellie is a white girl from New York City. Their first meeting in the halls at school is brief but powerful – and neither can stop thinking about the other. When they finally meet again, their connection is immediate, and a relationship begins. Walking in Central Park, Ellie looks down at her hand in Jeremiah's and likes how it looks contrasted against his. They feel they belong together, but they are not prepared for the views of the rest of the world.
<b>Zevin, Gabrielle</b>	<b>Elsewhere</b> When 15 year-old Lizzie Hall wakes up on a ship cruising to Elsewhere, she does not know she is already dead. Anger, resentment, and longing for her life temporarily block her progress toward - hard as it is to believe - reincarnation. Joy, sadness, and ultimately acceptance fill Lizzie's journey "back" to her new and future roles.