



South Mecklenburg High School

#WeAreSouth...Elevating Excellence, Success Nothing Less!

SOUTH MECK HIGH SCHOOL Suggested 9th Grade Summer Reading Titles 2020-2021

We believe our students enrolled at South Mecklenburg High School should continue to read over the summer months, despite school not being in session. While no formal assignment is due and this is not a requirement, students should challenge themselves to read as much as possible to help increase their vocabulary and reading comprehension.

A list of suggested titles, organized by grade level, is below. (Descriptions are taken from amazon.com)

We encourage students to be critical and global thinkers. The titles selected for summer reading explore social justice issues, which will help support our equity, diversity, and inclusion discussions as we proceed with our 2020-21 school year. South Meck maintains its commitment to establishing a learning environment which is inclusive of our diverse student population.

Each novel title has a lexile number next to it. A lexile measure of a book refers only to its text difficulty; it does not address the content or quality of the book. A lexile measure is based on two strong predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: word frequency and sentence length. Many other factors affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The lexile measure is a good starting point while choosing a title, but these other factors should be considered when making a decision about which book to choose.

To access books, please refer to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's One Access and Hoopla sites, which allows you to check out traditional books as well as e-books at no cost.

One Access: https://cmlibrary.org/oneaccess?utm_source=website&utm_medium=one-access-high-school-page&utm_campaign=one-access&utm_term=mc&utm_content=link-to-one-access-main-page

Hoopla: https://cmlibrary.org/resource/hoopla?utm_source=website&utm_medium=one-access-high-school-page&utm_campaign=digital-resources&utm_term=mc&utm_content=link-to-hoopla



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Title	Author	Lexile	Description
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba	960L	When fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. Without enough money for food, let alone school, William spent his days in the library . . . and figured out how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against the odds, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps, and thus became the local hero who harnessed the wind.
I am Alfonso Jones	Tony Medina	N/A	<p>Alfonso Jones can't wait to play the role of Hamlet in his school's hip-hop rendition of the classic Shakespearean play. He also wants to let his best friend, Danetta, know how he really feels about her. But as he is buying his first suit, an off-duty police officer mistakes a clothes hanger for a gun, and he shoots Alfonso.</p> <p>When Alfonso wakes up in the afterlife, he's on a ghost train guided by well-known victims of police shootings, who teach him what he needs to know about this subterranean spiritual world. Meanwhile, Alfonso's family and friends struggle with their grief and seek justice for Alfonso in the streets. As they confront their new realities, both Alfonso and those he loves realize the work that lies ahead in the fight for justice.</p> <p>In the first graphic novel for young readers to focus on police brutality and the Black Lives Matter movement, as in Hamlet, the dead shall speak--and the living yield even more surprises.</p> <p>Featuring a foreword by Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of Just Mercy.</p>
The Skin I'm In	Sharon G. Flake	670L	<p>Maleeka Madison is a strong student who has had enough of being teased about her "too black" skin and handmade clothes. So when she starts seventh grade, she decides to adopt a sassier attitude and a tougher circle of friends. The last thing she expects is to get "messed up" with another "freak," but that's exactly what happens.</p> <p>After a new teacher, whose face is disfigured from a skin disease, enters her life, will Maleeka be able to learn to love the skin she's in?</p> <p>Winner of the 1999 Coretta Scott King John Steptoe Award for new authors.</p>

I Am Malala	Malala Yousaizai	830L	<p>When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.</p> <p>On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.</p> <p>Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.</p> <p>I AM MALALA is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.</p> <p>I AM MALALA will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.</p>
The Tattooist of Auschwitz	Heather Morris	760L	<p>In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a Tätowierer (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners.</p> <p>Imprisoned for over two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive.</p> <p>One day in July 1942, Lale, prisoner 32407, comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have the number 34902 tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her.</p> <p>A vivid, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov's experiences as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners with what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust, The Tattooist of Auschwitz is also a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions.</p>