



COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

Preparing young people to thrive in meaningful lives

GRADE 9 READING LIST

The Other Boleyn Girl

Philippa Gregory

In this historical novel, two sisters compete for the greatest prize: the love of a king. When Mary Boleyn comes to court as an innocent girl of fourteen, she catches the eye of Henry VIII. Dazzled by the king, Mary falls in love with both her golden prince and her growing role as unofficial queen. However, she soon realizes just how much she is a pawn in her family's ambitious plots as the king's interest begins to wane and she is forced to step aside for her best friend and rival: her sister, Anne. Then Mary knows that she must defy her family and her king, and take her fate into her own hands

Girl With A Pearl Earring

Tracy Chevalier

A poor seventeenth-century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town.

Snowfall

K.W. Peyton

In a finely written novel of adventure and romance, K. M. Peyton presents an engaging cast of characters who choose not to be bound by the conventions of their time. As the small group of friends become intricately bound to and dependent on each other, they confront British class divisions, dangerous adventures, and the challenge of their hidden lives—and secret loves.

Ophelia

Lisa Klein

In this re-imagining of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, it is Ophelia who takes center stage. A rowdy, motherless girl, she grows up at Elsinore Castle to become the queen's most trusted lady-in-waiting. She catches the attention of the captivating, dark-haired Prince Hamlet, and their love blossoms in secret. But bloody deeds soon turn Denmark into a place of madness, and ultimately, Ophelia must choose between her love for Hamlet and her own life.

Prophecy of the Sisters

Michelle Zink

In Michelle Zink's debut novel, orphaned twin sister Lia and Alice Milthorpe are yoked together in an ancient prophecy that makes them enemies and could destroy them both. If Lia can break this familial curse, she can not only save her relationship with her beloved boyfriend but also finally resolve the mystery behind her parents' death.

Ender's Game

Orson Scott Card

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers.

The Lost Hero

Rick Riordan

When Jason, Piper and Leo crash-land at Camp Half-Blood, they have no idea what to expect. Apparently this is the only safe place for children of the Greek gods despite the monsters roaming the woods and demigods practising archery with flaming arrows and explosives. But rumours of a terrible curse and a missing hero are flying around camp. It seems Jason, Piper and Leo are the chosen ones who must embark on a terrifying new quest, which must be completed by the winter solstice. In just four days' time. Can the trio succeed on this deadly mission and what must they sacrifice in order to survive?

Catching Fire

Suzanne Collins

Catching Fire is the second book in *The Hunger Games Trilogy*. As the sequel to the 2008 bestseller, *The Hunger Games*, it continues the story of Katniss Everdeen and the fictional, futuristic nation of Panem. In this novel, Katniss faces another round in the Games and must prove her love for Peeta or face consequences to her loved ones by the Capital.

Mocking Jay Third in *The Hunger Games* series.

Suzanne Collins

Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has survived the Hunger Games twice. But now that she's made it out of the bloody arena alive, she's still not safe. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge. Who do they think should pay for the unrest? Katniss. And what's worse, President Snow has made it clear that no one else is safe either. Not Katniss's family, not her friends, not the people of District 12. Powerful and haunting, this thrilling final installment of Suzanne Collins's groundbreaking *The Hunger Games* trilogy promises to be one of the most talked about books of the year.

City of Bones

Cassandra Clare

The first book in the Mortal Instrument Series, *City of Bones* is a story about a secret society of demon-hunters whose magic is based on a system of tattooed runes.

City of Glass

Cassandra Clare

City of Glass is the last installment of the Mortal Instruments Series. Clary and her allies are the only hope to stop the annihilation of all Shadowhunters. To save her mother's life, Clary must travel to the City of Glass, the ancestral home of the Shadowhunters--never mind that entering the city without permission is against the Law, and breaking the Law could mean death. To make things worse, she learns that Jace does not want her there, and Simon has been thrown in prison by the Shadowhunters, who are deeply suspicious of a vampire who can withstand sunlight.

Seeker

William Nickolson

The Noble Warriors (Nomana) are dedicated to protecting the All and Only god who, according to prophecy, will be killed by the Assassin. Once a year, pilgrims are allowed on the island of Anacrea and accepted into the Nomana. Seeker after Truth, 16, has wanted to join the Noble Warriors all of his life, even though his father is intent on him being a scholar. When he enters an open door into the monastery, he sees his brother being publicly humiliated and cast out of the Nomana. Soon two pilgrims arrive who will change Seeker's life forever: Morning Star, who can sense a person's colors and interpret what they mean, and The Wildman, a spiker (outlaw) who is looking for power and peace. After all three teenagers are rejected by the Nomana, Seeker formulates a plan to ensure their acceptance.

Modoc: The True Story of the Greatest Elephant That Ever Lived

Ralph Helfer

Modoc is the joint biography of a man and an elephant born in a small German circus town on the same day in 1896. Bram was the son of an elephant trainer, Modoc the daughter of his prize performer. The boy and animal grew up devoted to each other. When the Wunderzircus was sold to an American, with no provision to take along the human staff, Bram stowed away on the ship to prevent being separated from his beloved Modoc. A shipwreck off the Indian coast and a sojourn with a maharajah were only the beginning of the pair's incredible adventures. They battled bandits, armed revolutionaries, cruel animal trainers, and greedy circus owners in their quest to stay together.

Patriot Games

Tom Clancy

From England to Ireland to America, an explosive wave of violence sweeps a CIA analyst and his family into the deadliest game of our time: international terrorism. An ultra-left-wing faction of the IRA has targeted the CIA man for his act of salvation in an assassination attempt. And now he must pay ... with his life.

Eaters of the Dead

Michael Crichton

The year is A.D. 922. A refined Arab courtier, representative of the powerful Caliph of Baghdad, encounters a party of Viking warriors who are journeying to the barbaric North. He is appalled by their Viking customs—their disregard for cleanliness . . . their cold-blooded human sacrifices. But it is not until they reach the depths of the Northland that the courtier learns the horrifying and inescapable truth: He has been enlisted by these savage, inscrutable warriors to help combat a terror that plagues them—a monstrosity that emerges under cover of night to slaughter the Vikings and devour their flesh.

Invisible Man

Ralph Ellison

As the book gets started, the narrator is expelled from his Southern Negro college for inadvertently showing a white trustee the reality of black life in the south. Mystified, the narrator moves north to New York City. What ensues is a search for what truth actually is, which proves to be supremely elusive. The narrator becomes a spokesman for a mixed-race band of social activists called "The Brotherhood" and believes he is fighting for equality. Once again, he realizes he's been duped into believing what he thought was the truth, when in fact it is only another variation.

The Stand

Stephen King

Stephen King's most popular book, according to polls of his fans, is an end-of-the-world scenario: a rapidly mutating flu virus is accidentally released from a U.S. military facility and wipes out 99 and 44/100 percent of the world's population, thus setting the stage for an apocalyptic confrontation between Good and Evil.

The Chosen

Chaim Potok

In 1940's Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences (Reuven is a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual, Zionist father; Danny is the brilliant son and rightful heir to a Hasidic rebbe), the young men form a deep, if unlikely, friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, the crisis of faith engendered when Holocaust stories begin to emerge in the U.S., loss, love, and the journey to adulthood.

The Egyptian

Mika Waltari

The Egyptian is a full-bodied re-creation of a largely forgotten era in the world's history: the Egypt of the 14th century B.C.E., when pharaohs and gods contended with the near-collapse of history's greatest empire. This epic tale encompasses the whole of the then-known world, from Babylon to Crete, from Thebes to Jerusalem, while centering around one unforgettable figure: Sinuhe, a man of mysterious origins who rises from the depths of degradation to become personal physician to Pharaoh Akhnaton.

The Flames of Rome

Paul L. Maier

Maier reconstructs the events surrounding the Great Fire of Rome in A.D. 64.

Dove

Robin Lee Graham

Graham describes the five years he spent sailing around the world alone in his twenty-four-foot sloop.

Fastfood Nation

Eric Schlosser

Schlosser documents the effects of fast food on America's economy, its youth culture, and allied industries, such as meatpacking, that serve this vast food production empire.

Sarah's Key

Tatiana de Rosnay

American journalist Julia Jarmond researches the brutal 1942 Nazi roundup in Paris and stumbles upon a connection between her family and one of the victims, which compels Julia to learn more about the girl's life.

CHALLENGING / CLASSICS:

The Chrysalids

John Wyndham

The Chrysalids is set in the future after a devastating global nuclear war. David, the young hero of the novel, lives in a tight-knit community of religious and genetic fundamentalists, always on the alert for any deviation from the norm of God's creation. Abnormal plants are publicly burned, with much singing of hymns. Abnormal humans (who are not really human) are also condemned to destruction—unless they succeed in fleeing to the Fringes, that Wild Country where, as the authorities say, nothing is reliable and the devil does his work.

Sense and Sensibility

Jane Austen

The story is about Elinor and Marianne, two daughters of Mr Dashwood by his second wife. When their father dies, the family estate passes to their brother, and the Dashwood women are left in reduced circumstances. The novel follows the Dashwood sisters to their new home, where they experience both romance and heartbreak. The contrast between the sisters' characters is eventually resolved as they each find love and lasting happiness. Through the events in the novel, Elinor and Marianne encounter the sense and sensibility of life and love.

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

The story follows the main character as she deals with issues of manners, upbringing, morality, education and marriage in the society of early 19th-century England. The spirited Elizabeth Bennet is one of the greatest of all fictional heroines, but she meets her match in the proud Mr Darcy.

To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee

Scout and Jem live in Maycomb, Alabama during the 1930s. Their father, Atticus Finch, defends a black man accused of raping a white girl, and tries to protect his children against prejudice.

Into Thin Air

Jon Krakauer

This non-fiction book details Jon Krakauer's ascent of Mount Everest in 1996. In the book, he relives the storm and its aftermath that results in the greatest loss of life in the history of mountaineering on Everest.

The Book Thief

Markus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Dune

Frank Herbert

The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained.

The Count of Monte Cristo

Alexandre Dumas

In the post-Napoleonic era, Edward Dantes, a nineteen-year-old sailor from Marseilles is soon to be a captain of his own ship and to marry the love of his life. But enemies provoke his arrest on the day of his wedding and he is condemned to lifelong solitary imprisonment. Fourteen long years later he escapes, assumes a secret identity, plots to get his love back and to get revenge against the people who put him in prison.

The Three Musketeers

Alexandre Dumas

The Three Musketeers (French: *Les Trois Mousquetaires*) is a novel by Alexandre Dumas, père, first serialized in March–July 1844. Set in the 17th century, it recounts the adventures of a young man named d'Artagnan after he leaves home to become a guard of the musketeers. D'Artagnan is not one of the musketeers of the title; those are his friends Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, inseparable friends who live by the motto "all for one, one for all."

Beloved

Toni Morrison

In the troubled years following the Civil War, the spirit of a murdered child haunts the Ohio home of a former slave. This angry, destructive ghost breaks mirrors, leaves its fingerprints in cake icing, and generally makes life difficult for Sethe and her family; nevertheless, the woman finds the haunting oddly comforting for the spirit is that of her own dead baby, never named, thought of only as Beloved.

Rebecca

Daphne DuMaurier

Daphne du Maurier's young heroine meets the charming Maxim de Winter and despite her youth, they marry and go to his home, Manderley. There, the sinister housekeeper Mrs Danvers and the mystery she keeps alive of his first wife Rebecca - said to have drowned at sea - threatens to overwhelm the marriage.