English 9-2
Summer Reading

**Book Selection:** Over the summer, each incoming freshman student enrolled in 9-2 must read one novel from a list of former Nutmeg Award nominees. Please turn this page over for the full list.

The Nutmeg Book Award encourages students to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of nominated titles. Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, the Nutmeg Committee is comprised of children’s librarians, school library media specialists, and student representatives.

Parents should review the descriptions of the novels to ensure that they are suitable for their child. If parents have further questions as to the suitability of a text for their child, they are encouraged to call Sara Ray, Teen Services Librarian at Simsbury Public Library; or Emily Drago, English Supervisor at Simsbury High School. Sara and Emily are happy to help students and parents make the choice best for them. Sara Ray can be reached at sarar@simsburylibrary.info or 860-658-7663 ext 2118; Emily Drago can be reached at edrago@simsbury.k12.ct.us.

**WRITTEN RESPONSE:** For the prompt below, respond in one well-written and well-organized paragraph.

1. Explain how a character develops during the course of the novel. Provide details and descriptions to illustrate that character’s development or lack of development.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:** In the first class, each student must have access to an electronic copy of his or her responses. Students will set up an account on Turnitin.com (a database used to prevent plagiarism) and submit their responses. For the first few classes, students will have conversations and complete exercises that center on their summer reading.
**Freshmen Summer Reading List**

*All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely

Rashad was just buying a bag of chips at a local convenience store, but instead he wakes up in the hospital after an encounter with a violent cop. Quinn witnesses the violent act committed by a man whom he loves and respects. Two teenage boys—one black, one white—deal with the consequences of a single violent act that tears their community apart.

*Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman

Caden Bosch is a brilliant student until his mind splits between his everyday life and delusions that place him on a sailing ship headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, in the Marianas trench. Shusterman uses artwork and experiences from his own son's struggles with mental illness to give readers a glimpse into the darkness of schizophrenia.

*Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein

A plane goes down in Nazi-occupied France. Two British girls, one a pilot and the other a spy, fight for survival. Code Name Verity is a story of loyalty, courage, and friendship set amid the backdrop of World War II.

*I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson

Fraternal twins, the painfully shy artist, and Jude, the outspoken daredevil, are driven apart by competition and jealousy. Only if they can find their way back to each other will they discover more about love, the world, and themselves.

*Jackaby* by William Ritter

A blend of Sherlock and Doctor Who, with a detective who can see what no one else can, and his newest assistant, Abigail, who has a knack for noticing details. In their first case together, a serial killer is on the loose in 19th-century New Fiddleham, and Jackaby suspects a supernatural villain.

*Out of Nowhere* by Maria Padian

Soccer captain and high school senior, Tom Bouchard can do no wrong—until he does. Out of nowhere, a night of shenanigans with his best friend changes everything. His once middle-of-the-road existence takes one messy turn after another. Facing the consequences of his actions leads him to finally see the struggles of his best friend’s addiction, his girlfriend’s bigotry, and the plight of the new Somali immigrants who have flooded his small Maine town. Now he must choose a side as tension rises among his family, his town, and his heart.

*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys

Near the end of WWII, the Wilhelm Gustloff, a hospital ship, is evacuating German civilians, Nazi officials, and military personnel from East Prussia. Joana, Florian, Emilia, and Alfred all unite to find strength, courage, and trust as they struggle toward freedom and their chance of escape. The story and its characters bring history to life with gripping danger, mystery, and hope.

*Scythe* by Neal Shusterman

In a world that has found a way to conquer all forms of death, everyone must now depend on scythes to keep the world’s population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen as apprentices to a scythe—a role that neither wants. The teens must master the skill of taking a life, knowing that if they fail, they may be next.

1Blurb Source: [http://www.nutmegaward.org](http://www.nutmegaward.org)