

# 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 Mary Richardson, Teen Services Librarian at Simsbury Public Library; or Emily Drago, English Supervisor at Simsbury High School. Mary Richardson can be reached at [mrichardson@libraryconnection.info](mailto:mrichardson@libraryconnection.info) or 860-658-7663 (ext 2118) and Emily Drago can be reached by email at [edrago@simsburyschools.net](mailto:edrago@simsburyschools.net).

**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

***After the Shot Drops* by Randy Ribay<sup>1</sup>** Bunny and Nasir have been best friends since they were little; however, that friendship is tested when Bunny gets an athletic scholarship at a prestigious school across town. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new peers, Nasir begins to spend more time with his cousin Wallace who is being evicted. Told in alternating voices, *After the Shot Drops* is a powerful story about friendship, basketball, and one teen's mission to create a better life for his family.

***Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland<sup>1</sup>** When the dead rise up from the battlefield during the U.S. Civil War, there is suddenly a new enemy to fight. Miss Preston's School of Combat for Negro Girls is one of the best training schools in the country, and Jane McKeene is the top pupil. She could easily find herself working to protect any of the fine women of Baltimore from the shamblers, but when whole families start to go missing, Jane sets out to uncover the secrets and solve the mystery.

***The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe<sup>1</sup>** Norris moves from Montreal to Austin, Texas, where he reluctantly starts at a new high school. Armed with sarcasm and snark, he catalogs the various groups in his school while struggling to form new friendships.

***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson<sup>1</sup>** Fraternal twins, Noah, 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.

***Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe* by Preston Norton<sup>1</sup>** Cliff Hubbard thinks he has nothing going for him and out of all the people he hates at his school he hates Aaron Zimmerman the most. But Aaron has heard the voice of God and has been commanded to get Cliff's help at making their school better. What follows is a story that will have you laughing, crying and making you realize that when you label someone, what you see is not exactly what you get

***Out of Nowhere* by Maria Padian<sup>1</sup>** 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<sup>1</sup>** 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<sup>1</sup>** 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.

<sup>1</sup>Blurb Source: <http://www.nutmegaward.org>