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# Ninth Grade Recommended Reading List 2020-2021 | [oppl.org/kids-lists](http://oppl.org/kids-lists)

## Fiction

Amateau, Gigi. *Come August, Come Freedom: The Bellows, the Gallows, and the Black General Gabriel* (TWEEN). This work imagines the childhood and youth of "Prosser's Gabriel", a courageous and intelligent blacksmith in post-Revolutionary Richmond, Virginia, who roused thousands of African-Americans slaves like himself to rebel.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker* (TEEN). In a futuristic world, Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship or rescue the girl.

Brennan, Sarah Rees. *In Other Lands* (TEEN). Elliott, a human in a fantasy world where he attends a school for warriors and diplomatic advisors, determines that the concepts of friendship and world peace may actually be possible.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Killer of Enemies* (TEEN). In a world that has barely survived an apocalypse that leaves it with pre-twentieth century technology, Lozen is a monster hunter for four tyrants who are holding her family hostage.

Colbert, Brandy. *Little & Lion* (TEEN). Returning home to Los Angeles from boarding school, Suzette grapples with her bisexuality when she and her brother Lionel fall in love with the same girl.

Cordova, Zoraida. *Labyrinth Lost* (TEEN). Alex is the most powerful witch in her family, even though she's hated magic ever since it made her father disappear. When an attempt to rid herself of magic makes her family vanish, she must travel to a strange, dark land called Los Lagos to get them.

Dewoskin, Rachel. *Someday We Will Fly* (TEEN). Lillia, fifteen, flees Warsaw with her father and baby sister in 1940 to try to make a new start in Shanghai, China, but the conflict grows more intense as America and Japan become involved.

Dimaline, Cherie. *The Marrow Thieves* (TEEN). Frenchie and other indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to the ability to dream, something most of the population has lost in this dystopian tale.

Gansworth, Eric. *Give Me Some Truth: A Novel with Paintings* (TEEN). In 1980 life is hard on the Tuscarora Reservation in upstate New York, and most of the teenagers feel like they are going nowhere: Carson Mastick dreams of forming a rock band, and Maggi Bokoni longs to create her own conceptual artwork instead of the traditional beadwork that her family sells to tourists--but tensions are rising between the reservation and the surrounding communities, and somehow in the confusion of politics and growing up Carson and Maggi have to make a place for themselves.

LaCour, Nina. *You Know Me Well* (TEEN). Mark and Kate sit next to each other in school but are barely acquainted until they meet at a San Francisco club during Pride Week and connect over each one's forbidden love.

Menon, Sandhya. *When Dimple Met Rishi* (TEEN). When Dimple and Rishi meet at a Stanford University summer program, Dimple is avoiding her parents' obsession with "marriage prospects" but Rishi hopes to woo her into accepting an arranged marriage with him.

Morris, Brittney. *Slay* (TEEN). An honors student at Jefferson Academy, seventeen-year-old Keira enjoys developing and playing Slay, a secret, multiplayer online role-playing game celebrating black culture, until the two worlds collide.

Morrow, Bethany C., editor. *Take the Mic: Fictional Stories of Everyday Resistance* (TEEN). This anthology features fictional stories--in poems, prose, and art--that reflect a slice of the varied and limitless ways that readers like you resist every day.

Ramos, Nonieqa. *The Disturbed Girl's Dictionary* (TEEN). Macy's school officially classifies her as "disturbed," but Macy isn't interested in how others define her. She's got more pressing problems: her mom can't move off the couch, her dad's in prison, her brother's been kidnapped by Child Protective Services, and now her best friend isn't speaking to her. Writing in a dictionary format, Macy explains the world in her own terms.

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down* (TEEN). As Will sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.

Rivera, Lilliam. *Dealing in Dreams* (TEEN). Sixteen year old Nalah leads the fiercest all-girl crew in Mega City, but when she sets her sights on giving this life up for a prestigious home in Mega Towers, she must decide if she's willing to do the unspeakable to get what she wants.

Russo, Meredith. *If I Was Your Girl* (TEEN). When Amanda Hardy moves to Tennessee, she wants to start fresh and leave her past behind her in Atlanta. Worried about her safety and her new friends' acceptance, she guards her heart until she starts falling for Grant and finds herself longing to open up her life to him.

Smith, Dodie. *I Capture the Castle* (TEEN). The 1934 journal of Cassandra Mortmain reveals her perspective on six stormy months in the eccentric and poverty-stricken life of her family while living in a ruined Suffolk castle.

Taylor, Laini. *Strange the Dreamer* (TEEN). War orphan and junior librarian Lazlo Strange is obsessed with the lost city of Weep. When a stunning opportunity is offered, Lazlo seizes his chance to learn the city's mysteries and enters a mythical world of monsters, treachery, and wonder.

Turtschaninoff, Maria. *Maresi* (TEEN). As novice Maresi awaits the call to serve in one of the houses of the idyllic Red Abbey, a new arrival with a dark past requires Maresi to act in order to protect her new sister and the abbey.

Watson, Renee and Ellen Hagan. *Watch Us Rise* (TEEN). Jasmine and Chelsea are sick of the way women are treated even at their progressive NYC high school, so they decide to start a Women's Rights Club. They post everything online and soon they go viral. But with success the club is also targeted by online trolls. Jasmine and Chelsea will risk everything for their voices--and those of other young women--to be heard.

White, Ellen Emerson. *A Season of Daring Greatly* (TWEEN). Eighteen-year-old Jill Cafferty just made history. Her high school's star pitcher, she is now the first woman drafted by a major league baseball team. Only days after her high school graduation, she'll join the Pittsburgh Pirates' Class A Short Season team . . . but not everyone is happy to have her there.

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## Nonfiction

Charleyboy, Lisa. *#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women* (TEEN 305.4889 NOT). Whether looking back to a troubled past or welcoming a hopeful future, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America resound in this book, an eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art that combine to express the experience of being a Native woman.

Jensen, Kelly. *Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World* (TEEN 305.42 JEN). Have you ever wanted to be a superheroine? Join a fandom? Create the perfect empowering playlist? Understand exactly what it means to be a feminist in the twenty-first century? Forty-four writers, dancers, actors, and artists contribute essays, lists, poems, comics, and illustrations about everything from body positivity to romance to gender identity to intersectionality to the greatest girl friendships in fiction. Together, they share diverse perspectives on and insights into what feminism means and what it looks like.

Slater, Dashka. *The 57 Bus* (TEEN 364.1555 SLA). If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment.

Reynolds, Jason and Kendi X. Ibram. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* (305.8 REY). A history of racist and antiracist ideas in America, from their roots in Europe until today, adapted from the National Book Award winner *Stamped from the Beginning*.

Steve Sheinkin. *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* (959.704 SHE). In 1964, Daniel Ellsberg was a U.S. government analyst, helping to plan a war in Vietnam. As the fighting in Vietnam escalated, Ellsberg turned against the war. He had access to a top-secret government report known as the Pentagon Papers, and he knew it could blow the lid off of years of government lies. But did he have the right to expose decades of presidential secrets? And what would happen to him if he did it?

## Graphic Novels

Flowers, Ebony. *Hot Comb* (TEEN). A poignant glimpse into Black women's lives and coming of age stories as seen across a crowded, ammonia-scented hair salon while ladies gossip and bond over the burn.

Hicks, Faith Erin. *One Year at Ellsmere*. Winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school, Juniper endures bullying from a popular queen bee before investigating rumors about a mythical beast in the nearby forest.

Kelly, Joe. *I Kill Giants* (TEEN). Barbara is an angry elementary-school girl who is known as a freak and claims to be a killer of giants. She faces bullies and storms with no fear, but cannot face what she hides from at home.

Krosoczka, Jarret. *Hey, Kiddo* (TWEEN). Jarrett's family is complicated. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery and he lives with his grandparents—two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children.

Neri, G. *Grand Theft Horse* (TWEEN). Gail Ruffu was a rookie trainer known for her ability to handle dangerous horses. When the owners of the horse she's working won't accept that he'll be hurt by racing, she steals him and becomes a woman on the run, wanted by the law and fighting for the humane treatment of animals.

North, Ryan. *Unbeatable Squirrel Girl* (TWEEN series). Wolverine, Deadpool, Doctor Doom, Thanos: there's one hero that's beaten them all! (Not that she's bragging.) She's also starting college, a whole new battle.

Osborne, Melissa Jane. *The Wendy Project* (TWEEN). Sixteen-year-old Wendy crashes her car, killing her youngest brother, Michael. Wendy—a once rational teenager—shocks her family by insisting Michael is alive and in the custody of a mysterious flying boy.

Pope, Paul. *Battling Boy* (TWEEN series). A young demigod is sent to help the people of Arcopolis, a city infested with monsters.

Prince, Liz. *Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir* (TWEEN). Eschewing female stereotypes throughout her early years and failing to gain acceptance on the boys' baseball team, Liz learns to embrace her own views on gender as she comes of age.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Runaways: Find Your Way Home* (TWEEN series). When the Runaways eliminate the villainous Pride from Los Angeles, it leaves a vacuum of power in the city's underworld, and soon Nico, Karolina, Gert, Chase, and Molly are on the run again to uncover the truth.

Shen, Prudence. *Nothing Can Possibly Go Wrong* (TWEEN). The unlikely friendship of Charlie, the laid-back captain of the basketball team, and Nate, the neurotic scheming president of the robotics club, nearly bites the dust when Nate declares war on the cheerleaders.

Tagame, Gengoroh. *My Brother's Husband* (TWEEN series). Yaichi's life as a suburban dad in Tokyo is suddenly changed by the arrival of a hulking, affable Canadian named Mike Flanagan, the widower of Yaichi's estranged twin, Ryoji. Young Kana is fascinated by her new uncle, but Yaichi is having a harder time adjusting.

Tamaki, Mariko. *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me* (TEEN). Laura Dean, the most popular girl in high school, was Frederica Riley's dream girl: charming, confident, and SO cute. There's just one problem: Laura Dean is maybe not the greatest girlfriend. Reeling from her latest break up, Freddy's best friend, Doodle, introduces her to the Seek-Her, a mysterious medium, who leaves Freddy some cryptic parting words: break up with her.

Ukazu, Ngozi. *Check, Please! Book 1: #Hockey* (TEEN series). Eric Bittle is a former Georgia junior figure skating champion, vlogger extraordinaire, and amateur pâtissier. But as accomplished as he is, nothing could prepare him for his freshman year of playing hockey at the prestigious Samwell University in Samwell, Massachusetts. It's nothing like co-ed club hockey back in the South! For one? There's checking. Second, there is Jack--his very attractive but moody captain.