



## Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading 2026

Greetings, rising freshmen!

You are required to read two books, *The Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff (ISBN 978-0374419301) and another book of your choice from the attached list. Please purchase a physical copy of *The Eagle of the Ninth* and bring it with you to school. There will be a test on *The Eagle of the Ninth* when you return to school. For your second title, you may choose any book from the list provided for your grade level. We desire that you choose a book from this list that you have never read. Do not choose a book that you have already read for summer or outside reading. For students who entered ECCS in 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade, we highly recommend that you read titles from the curriculum, such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, that you might have missed. Be prepared to complete an in-class writing assessment on your book on the first Monday of the new school year. We will discuss this assignment on the first day of school.

Remember that the grades associated with summer reading can help you get your literature grade off to a great start. If you have questions about the summer reading, please call the school at (205) 216-0149 during our regular summer office hours.

Happy Reading, and have a wonderful summer! Your Rhetoric School Literature Teachers

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Outside Reading List 2026-2027

**Note: The edition of the book you choose must be unabridged.**

1. Austen, Jane. Any of her six novels
2. Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*
3. Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*
4. Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth*
5. Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*
6. Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None*
7. Christopher, John. *The White Mountains*
8. Conrad, Joseph. *Lord Jim*
9. Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans*
10. Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage*
11. Dickens, Charles. *David Copperfield*
12. Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*
13. Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment*
14. Doyle, Arthur Conan. *A Study in Scarlet*
15. Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

16. Dumas, Alexander. *The Count of Monte Cristo*
17. Eliot, George. *The Mill on the Floss*
18. Eliot, George. *Silas Marner*
19. Frank, Pat. *Alas, Babylon*
20. Hardy, Thomas. *Return of the Native*
21. Hardy, Thomas. *The Mayor of Casterbridge*
22. Hardy, Thomas. *Far from the Madding Crowd*
23. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The House of the Seven Gables*
24. Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small*
25. Hoyle, K.B. *The Breeder Cycle* (any of the three books or the prequel, *Hunter*)
26. Hoyle, K.B. *The Gateway Chronicles* (any book in the series, starting with *The Six*)
27. Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Remains of the Day*
28. Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace*
29. Lewis, C.S. *The Chronicles of Narnia* (any TWO books in the series. You may reread these if you have read them before.)
30. Lewis, C.S. *The Great Divorce*
31. Lewis, C.S. *The Space Trilogy* (any book in the series, starting with *Out of the Silent Planet*)
32. Lewis, C.S. *Surprised by Joy* (this is an autobiography)
33. Lowry, Lois, Any of the sequel titles in the *Giver* series
34. McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. *Mara, Daughter of the Nile*
35. Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone with the Wind*
36. Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*
37. Montgomery, L.M. Any of the sequel titles in the *Anne of Green Gables* series
38. Orczy, Baroness. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
39. Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*
40. Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen*
41. Sayers, Dorothy. *The Nine Tailors*
42. Shakespeare, William. Any play **except** those in the curriculum (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*)
43. Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*
44. Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
45. Sutcliff, Rosemary. *Outcast*
46. Sutcliff, Rosemary. *The Shining Company*
47. Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*
48. Tennyson, Alfred. *Idylls of the King*
49. Thackeray, William Makepeace. *Vanity Fair*
50. Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Fellowship of the Ring* (or any subsequent title in the series)
51. Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Silmarillion* (prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* series)
52. Verne, Jules. *The Mysterious Island*
53. Wiesel, Elie. *Night*

If you were not at ECCS for the following years, we recommend that you read books you missed from our curriculum, as follows:

7<sup>th</sup>:

1. Lewis, C.S. *The Screwtape Letters*
2. Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*
3. Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*
4. Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*

8<sup>th</sup>:

1. Homer. *The Iliad*
2. Homer. *The Odyssey*
3. Sophocles. *Oedipus Rex AND Antigone*

For ambitious readers

The following longer titles are for ambitious readers. Your teacher *may* choose to give you extra credit for reading one of these.

1. Cervantes, Miguel. *Don Quixote*
2. Dumas, Alexandre. *The Count of Monte Cristo*
3. Hugo, Victor. *Les Miserables*
4. Melville, Herman. *Moby Dick*
5. Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina*
6. Tolstoy, Leo. *War and Peace*