

## NINTH-GRADE SUMMER READING

### *Coming of Age*

Throughout the ninth grade, you will be exploring what it means to come of age. For your summer reading, choose one of the following books to read and construct a double-entry journal. When we return from school, you will be given a test over the book you read.

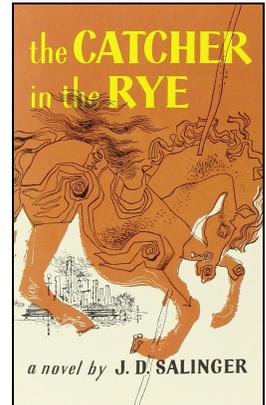
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#### ***Catcher in the Rye*** **By J.D. Salinger**

The hero-narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days.

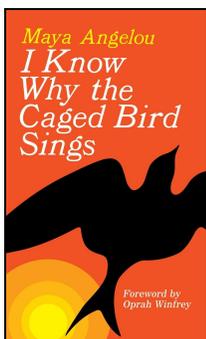
The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it.

There are many voices in this novel: children's voices, adult voices, underground voices--but Holden's voice is the most eloquent of all. Transcending his own vernacular, yet remaining marvelously faithful to it, he issues a perfectly articulated cry of mixed pain and pleasure. However, like most lovers and clowns and poets of the higher orders, he keeps most of the pain to, and for, himself. The pleasure he gives away, or sets aside, with all his heart. It is there for the reader who can handle it to keep.



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#### ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** **By Maya Angelou**



Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San

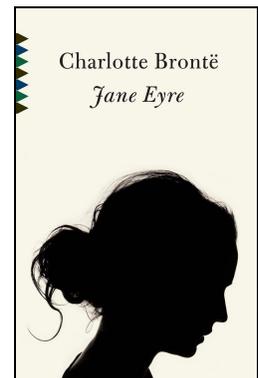
Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors (“I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare”) will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

Poetic and powerful, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read.

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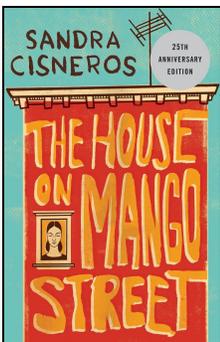
***Jane Eyre***  
**By Charlotte Brontë**

Charlotte Brontë's most beloved novel describes the passionate love between the courageous orphan Jane Eyre and the brilliant, brooding, and domineering Rochester. The loneliness and cruelty of Jane's childhood strengthens her natural independence and spirit, which prove invaluable when she takes a position as a governess at Thornfield Hall. But after she falls in love with her sardonic employer, her discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a heart-wrenching choice. Ever since its publication in 1847, *Jane Eyre* has enthralled every kind of reader, from the most critical and cultivated to the youngest and most unabashedly romantic. It lives as one of the great triumphs of storytelling and as a moving and unforgettable portrayal of a young woman's quest for self-respect.



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***The House on Mango Street***  
**By Sandra Cisneros**



Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, *The House on Mango Street* is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero.

Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous – it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.

# Double-Entry Journal

As students read, they will be responsible for keeping a double-entry journal. **Five entries should be written about the first half of the book and five entries should be written about the second half of the book (for 10 entries total).** Students may choose to record their entries electronically or on paper. That is their choice. However, they must format their entries like the following example...

passage copied from book	page number	personal response / commentary
“I knew that as Safina and I got older, we’d be expected to cook and clean for our brothers. We could become doctors because female patients. But we couldn’t become lawyers or engineers, fashion designers or artists— or anything else we dreamed of. And we wouldn’t be allowed to go outside our homes without a male relative to accompany us.”	18	Wow! I didn’t realize how different life in other countries can be. I think it’s unfair that girls have limited opportunities and are expected to take care of their brothers. I can’t imagine my mother or aunts not being allowed to go outside our home without a male relative to escort them. Life is very different for women in other parts of the world.

If you’re having trouble thinking of what to write for your personal responses, try these sentence starters...

- I feel like...
- I wonder why...
- I predict that...
- When the character said, “...” it really struck me because...
- This reminds me of a time when...
- This part surprised me because...
- This part was significant because...

Students’ journals will be graded on on

Learning Target	4	3	2	1
<b>Reading 9-10.1</b> Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text	Excellent  Ideas and comments thoroughly explain all passages	Good  Ideas and comments explain all passages	Satisfactory  Ideas and comments explain most passages	Needs Improvement  Ideas and comments explain some passages
<b>Language 9-10.2</b> Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing	Excellent  All spelling, capitalization, and punctuation is correct	Good  Few spelling, capitalization, and punctuation errors	Satisfactory  Several spelling, capitalization, and punctuation errors	Needs Improvement  Many spelling, capitalization, and punctuation errors
<b>College and Career Readiness</b> Student followed directions. Student met deadlines.	Excellent  Submitted on time. Followed formatting guidelines.	Good  Submitted one day late. Followed some formatting guidelines.	Satisfactory  Submitted two days late. Followed a few formatting guidelines.	Needs Improvement  Submitted three or more days late. Did not follow formatting guidelines.