



English Department West Seneca West Senior High School

June 2026

Dear Parents / Guardians of Students Entering English 9:

Reading during the summer develops lifelong reading habits, and it is an important part of West Senior's English curriculum.

The reading choices for students entering English 9 are listed on the attached page and on West Senior's website. Students will complete a written assessment in English class during the first week of school. We recommend students take notes while reading their book and/or bring their book to class the first week. Students will be able to use their handwritten notes and/or the book during the written assessment.

Each grade level has a different list, so students should be sure to choose from the list that corresponds to the grade level they are entering in September. *Students entering Grade 9 Honors, English 10 Honors, English 11 Honors and 12 Honors/AP have a different assignment.* Students who are enrolled in one of those classes in the fall but did not receive the assignment specific to that class can access the correct assignment on West Senior's website under *School Resources* and then under *2026 Summer Reading List*.

The books on the list cover a wide range of reading levels and genres. If needed, students can receive help selecting a book from the list by speaking to their English teacher or Ms. Knaze, West Senior's school librarian, before the end of school in June. While students may want to purchase a copy of the book to bring it to school in September, it is also possible to borrow the book from the library or an English teacher. Depending on availability, students can check out their selected book from West Senior's library before school ends in June or borrow it from the public library. An electronic copy of the book may be obtained using SORA, accessible through the West Senior library's web site at <http://wswshs.wscschools.libguides.com/home>, or through the West Seneca Public Library's catalog of ebooks and via Overdrive at https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default. If students are borrowing a book/e-book from the library, they should take notes as they read to review before the in-class written assessment. *Students will not be permitted to use their phones to access ebooks or notes.*

We believe this program will enhance our students' reading skills. If students have any questions during the summer, they can email their previous English teacher or pcarlone@wscschools.org. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to an exciting and successful school year!

Sincerely,

The Faculty of the West Seneca West English Department

Summer Reading List for Students Entering English 9, 2026

- *Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes
- *Shoeless Joe* by W.P. Kinsella
- *The Energy Bus: 10 Rules to Fuel Your Life, Work, and Team With Positive Energy* by Jon Gordon
- *Dull Boy* by Sarah Cross
- *Stardust* by Neil Geiman
- *The Probable Future* by Alice Hoffman
- *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- *Evolution, Me and Other Freaks of Nature* by Robin Brand
- *Brightly Burning* by Alexa Donne
- *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein
- *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII* by Joseph Bruchac
- *Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25* by Richard Paul Evans
- *Genuine Fraud* by E. Lockhart
- *The Wild Girls* by Pat Murphy
- *Jerk California* by Jonathan Friesen
- *Hawk: Occupation: Skateboarder* by Tony Hawk
- *Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis* by Pete Nelson
- *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot

Titles available from English teachers

- *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas
- *Gone to The Woods* by Gary Paulsen
- *Impossible* by Nancy Werlin
- *Finnie Walsh* by Steven Galloway
- *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins
- *The Crazy Horse Electric Game* by Chris Crutcher
- *The Contender* by Robert Lipsyte