

## Recommended Books for Grade 9 and 10 Students

If you read a book from this list, you will earn double the points for both The Amazing Race and for team challenges. The books are listed by genre:

### Fantasy, Futuristic, and Science Fiction

- **The Sword in the Stone** by T.H.White – An old wizard named Merlyn takes care of a curious young boy named Wart and transforms him into Arthur, the future king of Britain
- **The Chrysalids** by John Wyndham – Set in the future after a devastating nuclear war, David and a small circle of friends realize that they have unusual powers that, if discovered, could mean a life in exile and banishment.
- **The House of the Scorpion** by Nancy Farmer – Matteo Alacran was not born; he was harvested from DNA of a powerful but sinister leader. As Matteo struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by those around him. Escape is his only chance for survival.
- **Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury – Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where tv rules and books are on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden.
- **Empty** by Suzanne Weyn – A dystopic look at what happens to one American town when all the fossil fuels run out. It's the future and there's no gas... no oil... Which means no driving. No heat. Supermarkets are empty. Now what?
- **The Eleventh Plague** by Jeff Hirsh - In an America devastated by war and plague, the only way to survive is to keep moving. In the aftermath of a war, America's landscape has been ravaged and two-thirds of the population left dead from a vicious strain of influenza. Fifteen-year-old Stephen Quinn and his family were among the few that survived and became salvagers, roaming the country in search of material to trade. But when Stephen's grandfather dies and his father falls into a coma after an accident, Stephen finds his way to Settler's Landing, a community that seems too good to be true. Then Stephen meets strong, defiant, mischievous Jenny, who refuses to accept things as they are. And when they play a prank that goes horribly wrong, chaos erupts, and they find themselves in the midst of a battle that will change Settler's Landing--and their lives--forever.

### Contemporary

- **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime** by Mark Haddon - Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This is the diary of a strange young man who tries to cope in a world in which he does not quite fit in.
- **Speak** by Laurie Halse Anderson – Melinda is a friendless, outcast because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As she navigates her way through grade 9, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Her only solace is her art class where she discovers her inner voice through her art. It is through her art that she gains the courage to speak her mind and tell her side of the story.
- **The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd - When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's most vicious racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past.
- **The Jade Peony** by Wayson Choy - Chinatown, Vancouver, in the late 1930s and '40s provides the setting for this novel, told through the vivid and intense reminiscences of the three younger children of an immigrant family. They each experience a very different childhood as they encounter the complexities of birth and death, love and hate, kinship and otherness.

### Mystery and Adventure

- **The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold – Susie Salmon was 14 when she was brutally murdered. So begins the story of Susie, who is adjusting to her new home in heaven as she watches life on earth continue without her – her friends trading rumours about her disappearance, her killer trying to cover his traces, and her grief-stricken family unraveling.

- **The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown** - A murder in the silent after-hour halls of the Louvre museum reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected by a clandestine society since the days of Christ. The victim is a high-ranking agent of this ancient society who, in the moments before his death, manages to leave gruesome clues at the scene that only his granddaughter, noted cryptographer Sophie Neveu, and Robert Langdon, a famed symbologist, can untangle. The duo become both suspects and detectives searching for not only Neveu's grandfather's murderer but also the stunning secret of the ages he was charged to protect.

### True Stories

- **Freedom Writers' Diary** - Straight from the front line of urban America, the inspiring story of one fiercely determined teacher and her remarkable students.
- **Night by Elie Wiesel** – a deeply poignant autobiographical account of Wiesel's survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps.
- **The Wave: The Classroom Experiment that Went Too Far by Todd Strasser** - The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.
- **Touching the Void by Joe Simpson** - Joe Simpson and his climbing partner, Simon Yates, had just reached the top of a 21,000-foot peak in the Andes when disaster struck. Simpson plunged off the vertical face of an ice ledge, breaking his leg. In the hours that followed, darkness fell and a blizzard raged as Yates tried to lower his friend to safety. Finally, Yates was forced to cut the rope, moments before he would have been pulled to his own death. The next three days were an impossibly grueling ordeal for both men. Yates, certain that Simpson was dead, returned to base camp consumed with grief and guilt over abandoning him. Miraculously, Simpson had survived the fall, but crippled, starving, and severely frostbitten was trapped in a deep crevasse.

### Classics

- You may read any classic that you like. Below is a list of popular classics grouped by genre.
- Classic novels are available as e-books for free at [projectgutenberg.com](http://projectgutenberg.com) and can be uploaded to most electronic devices (computer, ipad, e-reader, smart phone, etc...)

**Adventure:** Sherlock Holmes, Treasure Island, The Three Musketeers, The Man in the Iron Mask, The Count of Monte Cristo, The Lost World, 20000 Leagues Under the Sea, A Journey to the Centre of the Earth, Around the World in 80 Days, The War of the Worlds

**Thriller/Mystery:** Frankenstein, Dracula, The Picture of Dorian Gray, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mister Hyde

**Romantic:** Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility, Persuasion, Emma, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, The Scarlet Letter

**The Human Condition/Realistic:** Great Expectations, A Tale of Two Cities, A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield, The Adventures of Oliver Twist

**Modern Classics:** Brave New World, Fahrenheit 451, The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings (series),