Grade 9
Summer Reading
@ CMHS
9th Grade Summer Reading List

Requirements: CP Students are assigned one book from this list. Honors Students are assigned *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and one other book from the list.

Choosing: On the following pages are descriptions of each book and links to reviews. These resources should help make a wise selection.

Assessment: Students have participated in the process of generating this list of six titles. In the fall, students will help determine the one most beloved 9th grade summer reading book through their summer reading assessment.

We hope your book(s) will be part of a wonderful summer!
Francie Nolan is a smart, astute, imaginative girl who loves reading. She lives in the slums of Williamsburg, in Brooklyn, where her mother, Katie, works as a cleaning lady and her father, Johnny, holds unsteady jobs due to his alcoholism. Francie spends much of her day with her younger brother, Neeley, or reading books. She loves school and learning, and fears that her family may not be able to afford to continue sending her to school. The novel follows Francie from age 11 until she's a young woman with a job. As she grows up, Francie and her family struggle to make ends meet and often go to bed hungry. Yet, she loves her family, especially her often-singing father and her aunts, who have their own sordid lives, and experiences first love.

Check out this review on commonsensemedia.org.
I AM STILL ALIVE are the words that 16-year-old Jess Cooper keeps repeating to herself. With only a wolf dog named Bo for company, she finds herself alone in the Canadian wilderness after the murder of her father. Her life in Seattle had been upended after a car crash that killed her mother and left Jess with an injured leg and scarred face. When the court insists on reuniting Jess with the father she hasn't seen since she was 4, she's sent off to live with him in Alaska. But Jess' secretive survivalist father isn't in Alaska, he's moved to a remote cabin in the Canadian wilderness that's only accessible by seaplane.

Check out this review on commonsensemedia.org.
Boy 21
by Matthew Quick

Having grown up with an absent mother, an embittered father, and a disabled grandfather, Finley has held on to basketball and his devoted girlfriend as his lifelines through high school. When his coach asks him for a special favor -- to look after and befriend a formidable young basketball player who seems to have suffered a mental breakdown -- Finley reluctantly agrees. The new student calls himself "Boy21" and claims to be from another planet, and Finley works hard to protect him at their tough, racially divided school. But what will happen to Finley's basketball dreams if Boy21 takes his place on the team?

Check out this review at commonsensemedia.org.
When Bruno is forced to move away from his enormous Berlin home with his family, his life changes forever. Besides moving into a smaller house with no "nooks and crannies" to explore, besides having no one to play with except for his older sister (also known as the "Hopeless Case"), he's surrounded by soldiers that are constantly in and out of his father's downstairs office as well as other grown-ups who always seem angry or unhappy. Bruno misses his friends, his grandparents, and the city itself. And he doesn't understand what's going on around him. He hates everything about "Out-With" and is very lonely until he meets the boy on the other side of the fence.

Check out this review at commonsensemedia.org.
On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, overwhelming the levees that were supposed to protect the city. Eighty percent of the city flooded, and more than 1,400 people lost their lives. DROWNED CITY chronicles the tragedy and triumph of those dark days, depicting brave rescues, widespread neglect, and brutal conditions.

Check out this review at commonsensemedia.org.
A Monster Calls
by Patrick Ness

Thirteen-year-old English schoolboy Conor's mother has been sick for the past year but she is getting treatments, and Conor won't let himself think that she might not get better. Until the night the monster comes. Although Conor feels a surprising lack of fear of the giant walking tree, the monster warns him that he will be afraid before the end, and this warning hangs over the book as readers get to know Conor.

Check out this review at commonsensemedia.org.
Catherine, the best baker in all the Kingdom of Hearts, wants nothing more than to open a bakery with her best friend. She just has to work up the courage to ask her parents, the Marquess and Marchioness. But her parents have their hearts set on her marriage with the buffoonish king and don't intend to let her spend her dowry on a store. Catherine then falls for Jest, the mysterious court jester. Can she have the bakery and Jest?

Check out this review at commonsensemedia.org.