Academic English
Grades 9 Reading List
(updated November 2014)

The following books can all be found in CCI’s library. These books are on these lists because the writing is at an academic level (though some are more challenging than others) and, even more importantly, they have enough theme and character development to ensure you will have lots to write about!

There is a variety of genres (historical adventure, young adult, sci-fi, etc.) and topics represented here so there is something for everyone on this list! Some of these books do deal with mature topics, including sexuality, violence, and drug use, so feel free to choose another book if you are not comfortable with what you are reading. Most of the books on this first list were published in the last ten years or so, though a few are a bit older. Also, keep in mind that just because authors are listed here does not necessarily mean that any book by them would be suitable for this task.

For suggestions of great “classic” novels you might consider reading, see the second list on this handout. For some non-fiction ideas, see the third list.

**Contemporary fiction**

Aker, Don. *The space between, The first stone, The fifth rule.*

Alexie, Sherman. *The absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian*

Allan, Clare. *Poppy Shakespeare.*

Almond, David. *Secret heart.*

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*

Anderson, M. T. *Feed or The astonishing life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation.*

Anderson-Dargatz, Gail. *The cure for death by lightning.*

Barclay, Linwood. *Fear the worst or Trust your eyes*

Bell, William. *The blue helmet or Forbidden City*

Billingsley, Franny. *Chime.*

Black, Holly. *Valiant, Coldest girl in cold town.*

Bone, Ian. *The song of an innocent bystander.*
Bray, Libba. *The Diviners*.

Brenne, Beverly. *Wild orchid*.

Brooks, Martha. *Two moons in August*.

Brown, Jennifer. *Hate List*.

Burtinshaw, Julie. *The perfect cut*.

Bustin, Pam. *Mostly happy*.

Calame, Don. *Swim the fly*.

Caletti, Deb. *The Queen of Everything*.

Card, Orson Scott. *Pathfinder*.

Cashore, Kristin. *Graceling or Fire*.

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a pearl earring*.

Chima, Cinda Williams. *The Demon King*.

Choyce, Lesley. *The end of the world as we know it or Shoulder the sky*.

Colfer, Eoin. *The wish list*.

Cowan, Jennifer. *Earthgirl*.

Cowan, Lesley Anne. *As she grows*

Cowan, Susan. *Tin angel*.

Crewe, Megan. *The way we fall*.

deLint, Charles. *The blue girl*.


Doctorow, Cory. *Little brother, For the Win, Homeland*.

Donnelly, Jennifer. *A northern light or Revolution*.

Dyer, Hadley. *Johnny Kellock died today*.

Efaw, Amy. *After*.

Elkeles, Simone. *Leaving Paradise*.
Ellis, Deborah. *No safe place or True Blue.*

Fitch, Sheree. *The gravesavers or Pluto’s Ghost.*

Flinn, Alex. *Breathing underwater.*

Foon, Dennis. *The Dirteaters.*

Forman, Gayle. *Just one day.*

Francis, Brian. *Fruit.*

Frank, E.R. *Friction.*


Ghent, Natale. *Gravity brings me down.*

Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass.*

Glatstheyen, Yankev. *Emil and Karl*

Goodman, Alison. *Eon: Dragoneye Reborn.*

Grant, Vicki. *Not suitable for family viewing or Quid pro quo.*

Green, John. *Looking for Alaska*

Haddon, Mark. *The curious incident of the dog in the night-time.*

Handler, Daniel. *Why we broke up.*

Harrar, George. *Not as crazy as I seem.*

Harvey, Sarah. *The lit report or Death benefits.*

Haworth-Attard, Barbara. *Theories of relativity.*

Holubitsky, Katherine. *Tweaked or Alone at 90 foot.*

Horvath, Polly. *The corps of the bare-boned plane.*

Hosseini, Khaled. *A thousand splendid suns.*


Irani, Anosh. *The song of Kahunsha.*

Jocelyn, Marthe. *How it happened in Peach Hill.*
Johansen, K.V. Nightwalker: *The Warlocks of Talverdin, Book #1*.

Johnson, Angela. *The first part last*.

Juby, Susan. *Getting the girl or Another kind of cowboy*.

King, A.S. *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The bean trees, Pigs in heaven* (sequel to *The bean trees*).

Kuipers, Alice. *The worst thing she ever did*.

Lake, Nick. *In darkness*.

Lanagan, Margo. *Tender morsels*.

Leavitt, Martine. *Keturah and Lord Death*.

Lekich, John. *The losers’ club*.

Levithan, David. *Will Grayson*.

Lewis, Wendy A. *Freefall*.

Lindner, April. *Jane*.

Livingston, Leslie. *Once Every Never*.

Lockhart, E. *The disreputable history of Frankie Landau-Banks*.

Lowry, Lois. *The silent boy*.

Lupica, Mike. *Hero*.

Mac, Carrie. *The droughtlanders or The beckoners or The opposite of tidy*.

Marchetta, Melina. *Finnikin of the Rock*.

Marchetta, Melina. *On the Jellicoe road or Saving Francesca*.

Marsden, John. *Tomorrow, when the war began*.

McClintock, Norah. *Dooley takes the fall or Taken*.

McCullers, Carson. *The heart is a lonely hunter*.

McDonald, Abby. *Getting over Garrett Delaney*.

McGarry, Katie. *Dare to You*.
McKay, Sharon E. *Esther.*

Moran, Michelle. *Cleopatra’s daughter* (or any other book by her).

Morrissey, Donna. *Kit’s law.*

Moynihan, Lindsay. *The Waiting Tree.*

Myers, Walter Dean. *Sunrise at Fallujah* or *We Were Heroes*

Namioka, Lensey. *Ties that bind, ties that break.*

Nelson, Colleen. *The Fall*


Noel, Alyson. *Saving Zoe.*

Oliver, Lauren. *Before I Fall* or *Delirium.*


Pearson, Kit. *The Daring Game.*

Peacock, Shane. *Death in the air, Vanishing girl, The secret fiend*


Pierce, Tamora. *Terrier.*

Plum-Ucci, Carol. *What happened to Lani Garver.*

Poulsen, David A. *Old man.*

Pratchett, Terry. *Nation.*

Rees, Celia. *Pirates* or *Witch Child.*

Reid, Donald. *The way it is.*

Riggs, Ransom. *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children.*

Rosoff, Meg. *How I live now, Picture me gone* or *Just in Case.*


Saenz, Benjamin. *Last Night I Sang to the Monster.*
Sawyer, Robert J. *Wake.*

Scarsbrook, Richard. *The monkeyface chronicles* or *Cheeseburger subversive.*

Schneider Robyn. *The beginning of everything*

Scrimger, Richard. *Into the ravine.*

Scott, Elizabeth. *The unwritten rule*

Scott, Michael. *The Alchemist*

Sebold, Alice. *The lovely bones* or *Almost moon.*

Sedgwick, Marcus. *Revolver.*

Selvadurai, Shyam. *Swimming in the monsoon sea.*

Setterfield, Diane. *The thirteenth tale.*

Sheppard, Mary, C. *One for sorrow.*

Sherrard, Valerie. *Kate.*

Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk. *The hunger* or *Hope’s war* or *Daughter of war.*

Smith, Dodie. *I capture the castle.*

Sobat, Gail Sidonie. *Gravity journal* or *Chance to Dance for You.*


Standiford, Natalie. *How to say goodbye in robot.*

Stiefvater, Maggie. *The Scorpio Races,* *The Raven Boys,* or *Shiver*

Stevenson, Robin. *A thousand shades of blue.*

Stinson, Kathy. *Becoming Ruby.*

Stratton, Allan. *Borderline*

Summers, Courtney. *Cracked up to be* or *Some girls are.*

Sutcliffe, Rosemary. *The eagle of the ninth chronicles* (3 books in one volume).

Taylor, Laini. *Daughter of Smoke and Bone.*

Tharp, Tim. *The spectacular now.*

Toten, Teresa. *The game or Me and the blondes.*

Treggiarai, Jo. *Ashes, ashes.*

Trebbath, Don. *Rooster.*

Van Diepen Allison, *Takedown*

Walters, Eric and Teresa Toten. *The taming.*


Wein, Elizabeth. *Code name Verity or Roses under fire.*

Weiner, Jennifer. *Best friends forever.*

Werlin, Nancy. *Impossible or The Killer’s Cousi or Rules of Survival.*

Westerfeld, Scott. *Uglies or So yesterday.*

Weyn, Susanne. *The bar code tattoo.*


Williams, Tad. *City of golden shadows.*

Wilson, Daniel. *Robocalypse.*

Wolff, Virgina Euwer. *Make lemonade.*

Woodson, Jacquelyn. *Beneath a Meth Moon*

Wynn-Jones, Tim. *Blink and caution.*

Ye, Ting-Xing. *Throwaway daughter or Mountain girl, river girl.*

Zarr, Sara. *How to save a life.*
The Classics!

Any book by one of these “classic” authors (from the 19th century and early to mid 20th century) would be a great read, including the following suggestions available in our library.

Margaret Atwood. *The handmaid’s tale* or *Cat’s eye*.
Jane Austen. *Pride and prejudice* or *Sense and sensibility*.
Ray Bradbury. *Farenheit 451* or *The Martian Chronicles*.
Anne Bronte. *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.
Charlotte Bronte. *Jane Eyre* (Lexile 890).
Emily Bronte. *Wuthering Heights*.
Pearl S. Buck. *The good earth*.
Arthur C. Clarke. *Childhood’s End* or *2001: A space odyssey*.
Robertson Davies. *Fifth business*.
Charles Dickens. *Great expectations*, *Oliver Twist*, or *A tale of two cities*.
Timothy Findlay. *The wars*
Ernest Gaines. *A lesson before dying*.
Judith Guest. *Ordinary people*.
Nathaniel Hawthorne. *The scarlet letter*.
Ernest Hemingway. *The old man and the sea*, *A farewell to arms*, or *The sun also rises*.
Frank Herbert. *Dune*.
Hermann Hesse. *Siddhartha*.
Aldous Huxley. *Brave new world*.
John Irving. *A prayer for Owen Meany*.
Daniel Keyes. *Flowers for Algernon*
Joy Kogawa. *Obasan*.
Margaret Laurence. *A bird in the house* or *The stone angel*.
W.O. Mitchell. *Who has seen the wind*.
George Orwell. *Animal farm* or *1984*.
Erich Maria Remarque. *All quiet on the Western Front*.
Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein*.
Nevil Shute. *On the beach*.
John Steinbeck. *Of mice and men* or *The grapes of wrath*.
Robert Louis Stevenson. *Treasure island* or *The strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

Bram Stoker. *Dracula*.

Jonathan Swift. *Gulliver's travels*.

Paul Theroux. *The Mosquito Coast*.

H. G. Wells. *The time machine* or *The war of the worlds*.

Rudy Henry Wiebe. *The mad trapper*.
Creative nonfiction

Most of the books in our regular nonfiction collection are not suitable for an independent study in English as they are designed to support research projects, however we do have a growing number of excellent books in our “creative nonfiction collection.” This is “a genre of writing that uses literary styles and techniques to create factually accurate narratives.” In other words, “true stories, well told.”

Some of these books, mostly the memoirs, are good possibilities for an English independent reading project.

Suggested titles include:

Ali, Nujood. I am Nujood, age 10 and divorced. (memoir – child bride in Yeman)

Bascomb, Neal. The Nazi Hunter.

Beah, Ishmael. A long way gone. (memoir – child soldier in Sierra Leone, refugee)

Busby, Cylin and John Busby. The year we disappeared. (memoir of a family dealing with the attempted murder of their policeman father)

Choy, Wayson. Papershadows. (memoir – growing up in a Chinese-Canadian family)

Dion, Lise. The secret of the blue trunk. (world war 2 memoir – young woman’s experience)

Juby, Susan. Nice recovery. (memoir – addiction)

DeRossi, Portia. Unbearable Lightness. (memoir – anorexia)

Fleury, Theo. Playing with fire. (memoir – hockey, sexual abuse)

Fung, Melissa. Under an Afghan sky: a memoir of captivity. (memoir – Canadian journalist kidnapped in Afghanistan)

Jal, Emmanuel. Warchild. (memoir – child soldier in Sudan)

Kamara, Mariatu and Susan McClelland. The bite of the mango. (memoir – war in Sierra Leone, abuse, refugee)

McCourt, Frank. Angela’s Ashes. (memoir – life in Ireland and Canada)

Mowat, Farley. And no birds sang. (World War II soldier’s memoir, focus on Italian campaign)

Nemat, Marina. Prisoner of Tehran. (memoir – Iranian political prisoner, refugee)
Ollestad, Norman. *Crazy for the storm.* (survival story – plane crash)

Olsson, Eva. *Unlocking the Doors.* (Holocaust memoir)

Keneally, Thomas. *Schindler’s list.* (Holocaust memoir)

Kennedy, Sheldon. *Why I didn’t say anything.* (memoir – hockey, sexual abuse)

Ralston, Aron. *127 hours: Between a rock and a hard place.* (survival story)

Sales, Nancy Jo. *The Bling Ring.* (true crime).

Skloot, Rebecca. *The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks.* (exploration of medical ethical issues and one women’s life and death)

Sender, Ruth Minsky. *The Cage.* (Holocaust memoir)

Walls, Jeanette. *The glass castle.* (memoir – dysfunctional family)

Wiesel, Elie. *Night.* (Holocaust memoir)

Ye, Ting-Xing. *My name is number 4.* (memoir – teenager during the Cultural Revolution in China)