

RUMSON-FAIR HAVEN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
2021 SUMMER READING PROGRAM
GRADE 9



Students enrolled in **ENGLISH I** are required to read one of the listed works.

THE LAST DAYS OF SUMMER (Steve Kluger)

The Last Days of Summer is the story of Joey Margolis, a young boy living in Brooklyn in the 1940s who finds a personal hero in Charlie Banks—the rookie 3rd baseman for the New York Giants. With the shadow of World War II looming in the background, *The Last Days of Summer* captures a time in history when a professional baseball player would actually write back to a young fan and maintain an extended correspondence with him. *The Last Days of Summer* is not a traditional novel: rather, it takes the form of an abstract scrapbook: letters, postcards, news clippings, box scores, report cards and telegrams.

THE OTHER WES MOORE: ONE NAME, TWO FATES (Wes Moore)

Two fatherless boys named Wes Moore were born blocks apart in similar, decaying Baltimore neighborhoods. One grew up to graduate from Johns Hopkins University, become a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, serve as a paratrooper and officer in the US Army in Afghanistan, gain an appointment as Special Assistant to the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, work for Citigroup, and speak at the Democratic National Convention. The other followed a shockingly different course in life, ending up as a convicted murderer serving a life sentence for killing an off-duty police officer. The author learned about the “other Wes Moore” through a series of articles in *The Baltimore Sun*. He began to correspond with and visit the “other Wes Moore,” learning how similar moments of decisions resulted in divergent destinies for the two men. The end result is *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*, a narrative that explores personal responsibility and the necessity of education and positive community values.

PERSEPOLIS: THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD (Marjane Satrapi)

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood is an award-winning graphic novel that depicts the author’s childhood and young adult years in Iran during and after the Islamic revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Marjane Satrapi paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life in a country undergoing dramatic, unsettling change.

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THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (Mark Haddon)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a fantastically unusual detective story written from the perspective of a 15-year-old autistic teenager named Christopher John Francis Boone, who is obsessed with math, science, and the greatest literary detective of all time: Sherlock Holmes. When he finds his neighbor’s dog, Wellington, impaled on a pitch fork, Christopher turns to Sherlock Holmes for inspiration and decides to solve the mystery. As in all good detective stories, the mystery only deepens as Christopher seeks to discover the identity of Wellington’s killer.

FAHRENHEIT 451 (Ray Bradbury)

“It was a pleasure to burn.” The opening sentence of Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* encapsulates a dystopian future in which a fireman’s sole job is to burn books, thereby maintaining a society comprised of people who are ignorant, oblivious to reality, and easily regulated by the state. Written in response to the Cold War and the McCarthy era, *Fahrenheit 451* is a dystopian classic. It is the story of Guy Montag, a fireman employed by the government to burn outlawed books. Traumatized by the death of an old woman who chose to perish with her beloved library, Montag opens a stolen book and begins to read—a process that leads him on a path of discovery and rebellion.

★ **Please note, all summer work is dependent on your finalized schedule!**