

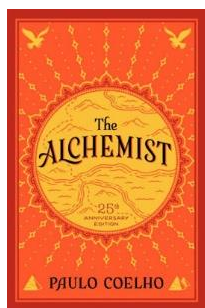
Summer Reading for Incoming Ninth Graders

In-class response essay (first week of school)

Step 1: Choose and obtain one book from the list below to read over the summer.

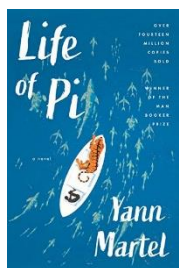
Step 2: As you read, consider the book's themes, characters, cultural or historical context, settings, and plot to prepare for an in-class writing assignment during the first week of classes. The in-class writing assignment will give you the opportunity to respond to the ideas in the text. You must be ready to write about the book during the first week of classes to earn full credit for the assignment.

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho



Combining magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder, **The Alchemist** has become a modern classic, selling millions of copies around the world and transforming the lives of countless readers across generations. Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

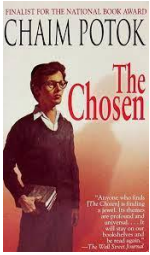
Life of Pi By Yann Martel



Piscine Molitor Patel, the son of an Indian zookeeper in Pondicherry, begins his narrative back in India when as a child he developed his peculiar religious convictions -- peculiar because Piscine ("Pi" as he becomes known) decides to embrace Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam at the same time. His frustrated parents don't know what to make of Pi's unorthodox devotion to three religions, but Pi himself sees no contradiction between his sets of beliefs.

When the family zoo falls on hard times, Pi's father decides to move the family to Canada in search of a new life. They travel on a Japanese cargo ship, along with many of their animals, and begin the long journey across the Pacific. The ship does not make it far beyond the Philippines, though, before encountering a strong storm. In mysterious circumstances the animals are released from their cages and the ship ruptures and begins to founder. Pi scrambles for safety, but when the confusion fades, he finds himself alone in a life raft with a zebra, a hyena, an orangutan, and Richard Parker -- a full-grown male Bengal tiger. (Provided by Bergen County Cooperative Library System)

The Chosen by Chiam Potok



The Chosen is the now-classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again. . .

“Anyone who finds it is finding a jewel. Its themes are profound and universal.”

—The Wall Street Journal