

HONORS English 9 Summer Reading List

Welcome to our English Department's Summer Reading Lists for Grade 9 Honors! In an effort to prepare you for future literary discussions, the English department requires all honors students to read ONE of the books from the list below. At the start of the school year, all students will be tested on these selections. Books listed may be borrowed from the state library system or purchased on-line or from local bookstores.

*Please note that starred (**) books indicate a parental advisory due to occasional profanity, explicit language, and/or drug-use or sexual references.*

Reading Lists may also be viewed on-line at the English Department website:
<http://kapalama.ksbe.edu/high/english/index.htm>

[Escape from Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity and My Journey to Freedom in America](#); Francis Bok

In this groundbreaking modern slave narrative, Francis Bok shares his remarkable story with grace, honesty, and a wisdom gained from surviving ten years in captivity. May, 1986: Selling his mother's eggs and peanuts near his village in southern Sudan, seven year old Francis Bok's life was shattered when Arab raiders on horseback, armed with rifles and long knives, burst into the quiet marketplace, murdering men and women and gathering the young children into a group. Strapped to horses and donkeys, Francis and others were taken north, into lives of slavery under wealthy Muslim farmers. *Escape from Slavery* is at once a riveting adventure, a story of desperation and triumph, and a window revealing a world that few have survived to tell (Amazon.com).

[In My Hands](#); Irene Gut Opdyke

When World War II began, Irene Gutowna was a 17-year-old Polish nursing student. Six years later, she writes in this inspiring memoir, "I felt a million years old." In the intervening time she was separated from her family, raped by Russian soldiers, and forced to work in a hotel serving German officers. Sickened by the suffering inflicted on the local Jews, Irene began leaving food under the walls of the ghetto. Soon she was scheming to protect the Jewish workers she supervised at the hotel, and then hiding them in the lavish villa where she served as housekeeper to a German major. The author presents her extraordinary heroism as the inevitable result of small steps taken over time, but her readers will not agree as they consume this thrilling adventure story, which also happens to be a drama of moral choice and courage (Amazon.com).

[The Translator](#); Daoud Hari **

"Hari, a Zaghawa tribesman, grew up in a village in the Darfur region of Sudan. As a child he saw colorful weddings, raced his camels across the desert, and played games in the moonlight after his work was done. In 2003, this traditional life was shattered when helicopter gunships appeared over Darfur's villages. Ancient hatreds and greed for natural resources had collided, and the conflagration spread. *The Translator* tells a remarkable story of a man who came face to

face with genocide--time and again risking his own life to fight injustice and save his people" (Amazon.com).

***I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*, Malala Yousafzai**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. *I AM MALALA* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. *I AM MALALA* will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world (Amazon.com).