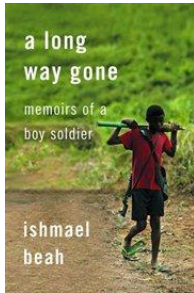
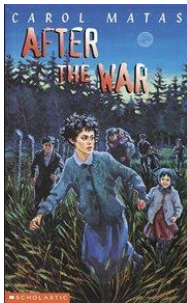


GRADE 9 SUGGESTED READING LIST



A Long Way Gone / Ishmael Beah

This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah, now 25 years old, tells how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.



After the War / Carol Matas

Shortly after the end of World War II, Ruth Mendenberg is released from Buchenwald, one of Hitler's concentration camps. Ruth returns to her hometown in Poland and learns that both her home and her family are gone. At 15 of age she has lost faith and lives with the guilt of being the only surviving member of her family. She meets a young man named Saul from Eretz Israel, who encourages recently liberated Jews to travel towards relative freedom in Mandate Palestine.



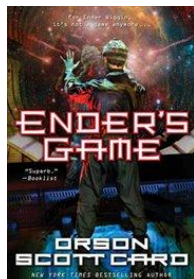
Burning Up / Caroline Cooney

Macey decides to investigate a fire that occurred in her Connecticut town in 1959 for a local history project. Her teacher opposes the idea, and her parents and grandparents don't want to talk about it. Macey is also involved with a student volunteer group that is assigned to help an inner-city church paint rooms for a day care. After an arsonist sets fire to the church, Macey becomes even more determined to help the inner-city kids and to find out the truth about the fire of 1959.



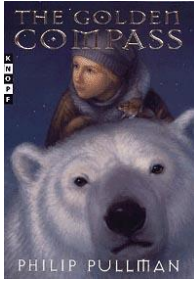
The Convicts / Iain Lawrence (first in a series)

His efforts to avenge his father's unjust imprisonment force thirteen-year-old Tom Tin into the streets of nineteenth-century London, but after he is convicted of murder, Tom is eventually sent to Australia where he has a surprise reunion.



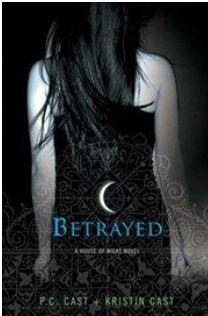
Ender's Game / Orson Scott Card

To develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut--young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training.



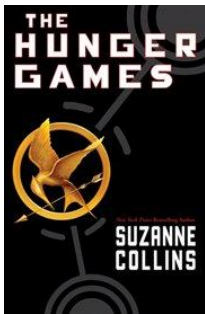
The Golden Compass / Philip Pullman

The golden compass of the title is an intricate truth-telling device that guides twelve-year-old Lyra Belacqua and her daemon Pantalaimon on a journey to the far frozen North, in search of answers about disappearing children and a mysterious theological phenomenon called Dust.



House of Night series / P.C. Cast

In book one Betrayed, sixteen-year-old Zoey Redbird is just settling in at the House of Night, a finishing school dedicated to training fledgling vampyres to become productive adults, when a series of murders targeting human teens is traced back to the school, forcing her to think about the connections that still exist between her old and new worlds.



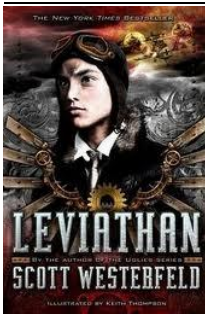
The Hunger Games , Catching Fire, and Mockingjay /Suzanne Collins

To save her younger sister, sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen volunteers to become a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a competition hosted by the Capitol where young men and women are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.



The Juvie Three / Gordon Korman

Gecko, Arjay, and Terence, all in trouble with the law, must find a way to keep their halfway house open in order to stay out of juvenile detention.



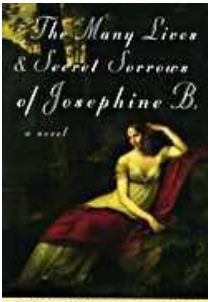
Leviathan (v2 Behemoth; v3 Goliath) / Scott Westerfeld

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.



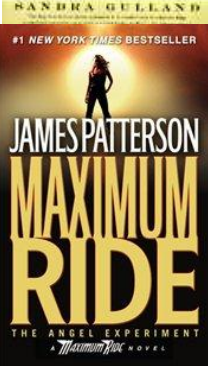
The Maestro / Tim Wynne-Jones

A grand piano dangling from a helicopter over the desolate wilderness: to Burl Crow, on the urn from his father, it offers a glimpse of something rich and strange, a sign of a world beyond the bleak limits of his own.



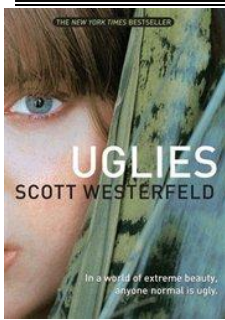
The Many Lives and Secret Sorrows of Josephine B./ Sandra Gulland

This book in diary and letter form, explores the life of Josephine Bonaparte, covering her childhood, first marriage, the birth of her children, her struggles during the French revolution, and her marriage to Napoleon.



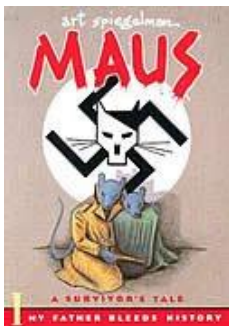
Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment (the first book in the Maximum Ride series) / James Patterson

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose



Uglies (and sequels Pretties, Specials, and Extras) / Scott Westerfeld

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.



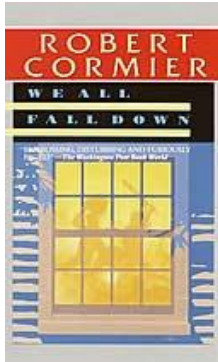
Maus I (or Maus II) / Art Spiegelman

A memoir about Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself. Cartoon format portrays Jews as mice and Nazis as cats. (this book is the first comic book to win a Pulitzer Prize for literature).



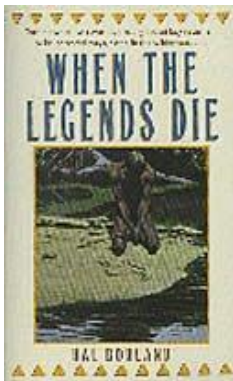
We All Fall Down Eric Walters

As Will Fuller begins high school, his history teacher, Mrs Phelps, teaches the class an old poem, "Ring Around the Rosie" and explains its origins. She reminds them that on September 11, 2001, Will and his classmates will participate in a "Take Your Kids to Work Day" with their parents. His friend, James, will go with his father, who is a firefighter, while Will reveals he will be spending the day his father John at the World Trade Center. Mrs. Phelps ends the class by saying that it could be an experience that changes their entire lives.



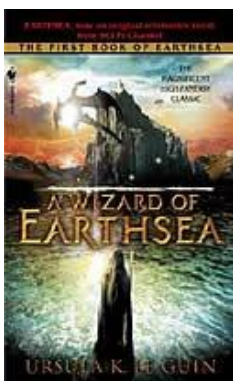
We All Fall Down / Robert Cormier

In the small town of Burnside, the Jerome family house is destroyed by teenage vandals, who defecate on the floors and push their daughter down the stairs, placing her in a coma. However, a childlike stalker calling himself 'the Avenger' witnesses the whole incident and, enraged, begins to track down each culprit.



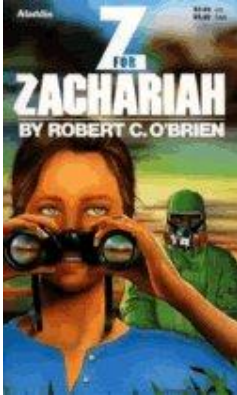
When the Legends Die / Hal Borland

A Ute Indian youth, Tom Black Bull, leaves the reservation to enter the rodeo life. He is under the tutelage of Red Dillon, a talented man with a drinking problem. The youth feels in a struggle to belong to two worlds.



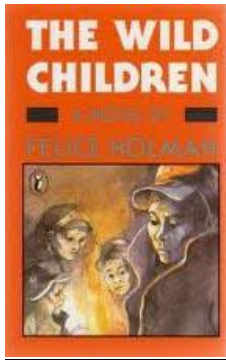
A Wizard of Earth Sea / Ursula K. LeGuin

Ged (commonly known as Sparrowhawk) is a young boy on Gont, one of the larger islands in the north of the archipelago of Earthsea. His mother is dead, his much older siblings have all left home, and his father is a dour, taciturn [bronze-smith](#) with nothing in common with his son, so the boy grows up wild and headstrong. Ged discovers by accident that he has an extraordinary talent for [magic](#). His aunt, the village [witch](#), teaches him the little she herself knows, but his power far exceeds hers.



Z for Zachariah / Robert O'Brien

Ann Burden has lived alone in a small town in a valley in the eastern United States for over a year following a nuclear war which appears to have rendered all land outside the valley contaminated and uninhabitable because it is all irradiated. She thinks that she is the only one left in the world. One day, however, she observes a stranger coming into the valley. He is dressed in a plastic Radiation Protection Suit and is carrying a cart covered with the same material...



The Wild Children / Felice Holman

Left behind when his family is arrested by soldiers during the dark days following the Bolshevik Revolution, twelve-year-old Alex falls in with a gang of other desperate homeless children, but never loses his hope for a better life.