

Language Arts 9 Book List

Note - If you would like to read a book that is NOT on this list, it must be approved by your instructor BEFORE you start.

Memoirs

1. **"The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls** (288 pages)
A memoir of Walls' unconventional, poverty-stricken childhood and her survival through neglect and hardship.
2. **"I Am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai** (352 pages)
The story of how Malala was shot by the Taliban for advocating girls' education and her fight for human rights.
3. **"Educated" by Tara Westover** (352 pages)
A memoir about a girl growing up in a strict, survivalist family in rural Idaho, who escapes to get an education despite her isolated upbringing.
4. **"When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi** (256 pages)
A poignant memoir by a neurosurgeon who faces terminal cancer and reflects on life, death, and the meaning of it all.
5. **"The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom** (225 pages)
The memoir of Corrie ten Boom, who, with her family, hid Jews from the Nazis during World War II in the Netherlands.
6. **"A Long Way Gone" by Ishmael Beah** (229 pages)
A memoir of a young boy's experience as a child soldier in Sierra Leone during the brutal civil war.
7. **"Night" by Elie Wiesel** (120 pages)
Elie Wiesel's autobiographical account of his experiences in Nazi concentration camps during the Holocaust.
8. **"Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson** (336 pages)
A memoir by a lawyer who founded the Equal Justice Initiative and fought for the release of innocent prisoners on death row.
9. **"The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown** (416 pages)
The true story of the 1936 U.S. Olympic rowing team, which triumphed despite many hardships, including the Great Depression.
10. **"Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" by Trevor Noah** (304 pages)
Comedian Trevor Noah recounts his childhood as a mixed-race boy in apartheid South Africa, highlighting struggles with identity and race.

11. **"The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row" by Anthony Ray Hinton** (352 pages)
Anthony Ray Hinton shares his journey of surviving 30 years on death row for a crime he didn't commit and eventually gaining freedom.
12. **"The Tattooist of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris** (288 pages)
A heart-wrenching World War II memoir about Lale Sokolov, a Jewish man who was forced to work as a tattooist at Auschwitz.
13. **"The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row" by Anthony Ray Hinton** (352 pages)
Anthony Ray Hinton recounts his wrongful conviction and 30 years on death row before being exonerated.
14. **Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance** (368 pages) A memoir about the author's upbringing in a working-class family in Appalachia and the challenges they faced, offering insight into the struggles of poor white Americans.
15. **Stitches: A Memoir by David Small** (368 pages) In this graphic memoir, David Small recounts his painful childhood, including his troubled relationship with his parents and the impact of a life-changing surgery.
16. **Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer** (368 pages) Jon Krakauer's firsthand account of the 1996 Mt. Everest disaster offers an intense and personal exploration of human ambition, survival, and the perils of mountaineering.

Autobiographies

17. **"The Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank** (304 pages)
The famous diary of Anne Frank, a Jewish girl in hiding from the Nazis during World War II, documenting her life and experiences.
18. **"Becoming" by Michelle Obama** (448 pages)
The former First Lady shares her personal journey from her childhood in Chicago to her years in the White House.
19. **"The Story of My Life" by Helen Keller** (224 pages)
Helen Keller's account of her struggles and triumphs as a blind and deaf woman, detailing her education and accomplishments.
20. **"Long Walk to Freedom" by Nelson Mandela** (656 pages)
The autobiography of Nelson Mandela, detailing his early life, his fight against apartheid, and his time in prison.

21. **"The Autobiography of Malcolm X" by Malcolm X and Alex Haley** (496 pages)
A powerful account of the life of Malcolm X, from his troubled childhood to his transformation into a civil rights leader.

Biographies

22. **"Steve Jobs" by Walter Isaacson** (656 pages)
A biography of the co-founder of Apple Inc., exploring his innovative mind and his complicated personality.

23. **"Alexander Hamilton" by Ron Chernow** (818 pages)
A comprehensive biography of one of America's founding fathers, detailing his role in shaping the nation.

24. **"Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman" by Robert K. Massie** (528 pages)
A biography of the Russian empress, exploring her rise to power and her reign over Russia.

25. **"Benjamin Franklin: An American Life" by Walter Isaacson** (608 pages)
A biography of one of America's most famous founding fathers, exploring his many achievements and personal life.

Other Narratives

26. **"Refugee" by Alan Gratz** (352 pages)
A historical fiction about three refugee children, living in different time periods and places, all struggling to escape violence and persecution.

27. **"Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi** (496 pages)
The story of two half-sisters in Ghana and their descendants, spanning across 300 years and highlighting the impacts of the transatlantic slave trade.

28. **"Firekeeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley** (496 pages)
A Native American teen's investigation into a local murder and her journey of self-discovery.

29. **"All The Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr** (531 pages)
Set during World War II, the novel tells the intertwined stories of a blind French girl and a German boy.

30. **"Beartown" by Fredrik Backman** (416 pages)
A small town is rocked by the aftermath of a sexual assault, revealing dark secrets and the struggle for justice.

31. **"Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" by Bryan Stevenson** (336 pages)
A powerful memoir from a lawyer fighting against the injustice of the American criminal justice system.

32. **"The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd** (448 pages)

Set in the antebellum South, this novel follows two girls of different races as they navigate issues of slavery, freedom, and empowerment.

33. **"The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig** (304 pages)

Nora Seed explores infinite versions of her life through the magical books in the Midnight Library, finding paths to happiness and self-realization.

34. **"The Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead** (214 pages)

Based on a true story, this novel follows two boys subjected to the horrors of a reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.