

El Camino Real High School Summer Reading List for Incoming 9th Graders

Students should select one work on the list that matches their expected class for the following year. Accompanying each selection is a recommendation for how to approach the text. Within the first few weeks of school, students will write an essay about the work they have chosen.

9R:

1. *Buried Onions*; Soto
Consider how the motif (repeated idea or image) of buried onions contributes to Soto's thematic message.
2. *Life As We Knew It*; Pfeffer
Consider how Pfeffer uses the science fiction set-up of the moon being knocked from orbit to focus on the importance of family and survival.
3. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*; Chbosky
Consider how Chbosky uses the epistolary form (writing letters) and allusions to convey Charlie's development.

9AE/Hum/AVID:

1. *Reservation Blues*; Alexie
Look up the legendary guitar player Robert Johnson. Also, consider how Alexie uses his story to explore issues of gender and identity as his characters attempt to find their place in society.
2. *The Chosen*; Potok
Consider how Potok explores issues of friendship and truth (spiritual and personal) in a changing world.

9H:

1. *The Joy Luck Club*; Tan
Consider elements of identity, especially as the younger girls are trying to figure out how to be Chinese/American/Chinese-American. Also consider issues of self-acceptance.
2. *Treasure Island*; Stevenson
Consider how Stevenson demonstrates Jim's maturity through his encounters with other characters in the novel. While the story itself is entertaining, there is a deeper message about growing up and becoming a proper man.