The summer reading assignment for rising ninth-graders at West Springfield High School is designed to help you explore areas of interest and continue to practice your reading skills over summer vacation. **You are able to choose the book or books that you read to promote individual interests and to provide for an enjoyable reading experience.** The recommended texts in this list provide various thematic comparisons to texts that will be studied during English 9 and English 9 Honors. You are encouraged to make comparisons and connections between class texts and your summer reading choices (even if not from this list) throughout the school year.

You are encouraged to use the templates provided to take notes about characters, setting, action, plot, and additional observations. You will be allowed to use this sheet to help you with the required summer reading formal assessment in September. Students should complete the chart for the book(s) they read for this assignment.

**English 9**
Students must read **one (1)** book over the summer.

**English 9 Honors**
Students must read **two (2)** books over the summer.

**The following are recommended books.**

**Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter** by Adeline Yen Mah
One of the ALA Best Books for Young Adults, this is the true autobiography of a woman raised by a stepmother who didn’t want her.

**Cold Sassy Tree** by Olive Ann Burns
This is a coming-of-age tale that follows the adventures of 14-year-old Will Tweedy in Cold Sassy, Georgia.

**Eragon** by Christopher Paolini
A number-one New York Times bestseller, this is a classic fantasy story and the first in a series about a boy and the dragon he befriends as they confront the struggle between good and evil.

**Finding Miracles** by Julia Alvarez
Through Milly’s exploration of her past, *Finding Miracles* examines the emotional complexity of familial relationships and the miracles of everyday life.

**Monster** by Walter Dean Myers
This 1999 National Book Award nominee for Young People’s Literature tells the story of a teenage boy who is accused of a crime and put in jail, where he writes about his ordeal in the form of a movie script.

**Rules of the Road** by Joan Bauer
This ALA Best Books for Young Adults shares the journey of Jenna, who sets out on an unforgettable road trip after finally getting her driver’s license.

**Within Reach: My Everest Story** by Jack Galvin and Mark Pfetzer
The gripping true story of the youngest climber to ascend to 26,000 feet on Mount Everest.