

**NINTH GRADE  
HILLSIDE SCHOOL  
9th GRADE SUMMER READING LIST  
2024**

---

- 1) Each student is responsible for reading the **Required Book** for his grade, listed below.
- 2) Each student may select one to three titles from the list of suggested books. These are not required readings. Students who would like to add a title to their summer reading list should send a brief proposal to their English teacher.

**STUDENTS ENTERING NINTH GRADE**

**REQUIRED: You must read the following:**

**10 Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now** by: Jaron Lanier

You might have trouble imagining life without your social media accounts, but virtual reality pioneer Jaron Lanier insists that we're better off without them. In *Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now*, Lanier, who participates in no social media, offers powerful and personal reasons for all of us to leave these dangerous online platforms.

Lanier's reasons for freeing ourselves from social media's poisonous grip include its tendency to bring out the worst in us, to make politics terrifying, to trick us with illusions of popularity and success, to twist our relationship with the truth, to disconnect us from other people even as we are more "connected" than ever, to rob us of our free will with relentless targeted ads. How can we remain autonomous in a world where we are under continual surveillance and are constantly being prodded by algorithms run by some of the richest corporations in history that have no way of making money other than being paid to manipulate our behavior? How could the benefits of social media possibly outweigh the catastrophic losses to our personal dignity, happiness, and freedom? Lanier remains a tech optimist, so while demonstrating the evil that rules social media business models today, he also envisions a humanistic setting for social networking that can direct us toward a richer and fuller way of living and connecting with our world.

*Suggestions for Additional Book Choices:*



**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by: Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

**Ready Player One** by: Ernest Cline

*A world at stake. A quest for the ultimate prize. Are you ready?*

In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the OASIS, a vast virtual world where most of humanity spends their days. When the eccentric creator of the OASIS dies, he leaves behind a series of fiendish puzzles, based on his obsession with the pop culture of decades past. Whoever is first to solve them will inherit his vast fortune—and control of the OASIS itself. Then Wade cracks the first clue. Suddenly he's beset by rivals who'll kill to take this prize. The race is on—and the only way to survive is to win.

**Casualties of Privilege: Essays on Prep Schools' Hidden Culture** by: Louis M. Crosier

Drinking, drugs, and sex; friendship, trust, and loyalty -- the other side of the prep school experience is presented with stark candor by recent graduates of the nation's most prestigious preparatory schools. These revealing, often startling essays set the stage for honest discussion of the boarding school's responsibility to the student's emotional and moral education.