

## 2023 Summer Reading 9th Grade

*“Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.” John C. Maxwell*

Hello rising ninth-graders, and welcome to Baldwin High School! Your ninth-grade teachers are looking forward to meeting you and working with you! Did you know that taking a “brain break” for the **entire** summer can cause you to lose some of the skills that you worked hard to develop this year? Your teachers encourage you to read a lot this summer and are interested in hearing about your reading lives when you return in September.

This summer we encourage you to read **ONE** title from the 9th Grade Summer Reading Book List or select a book of your choice. As you read, be sure to *take notes, focusing on the essential question: **How do our choices impact our lives?*** You may use a notebook or post-it notes to keep track of your thoughts and ideas about the book. This will help you remember the story and prepare for a Socratic Seminar when you return to school.

*At the end of September, you will be participating in a Socratic Seminar. Each student will be sharing their views and ideas about the book. Your teacher will ask you to reflect on the seminar as an in-class assignment. This will count as a first-quarter grade.*

### Task

**Task:** When you return to school, following the Socratic Seminar, you will complete a reflection in which you respond to the essential question:

*How do our choices impact our lives?*

**In order to complete this task, you will need to do the following:**

1. Read **one** text from the 9th Grade Book List or **a book of your choice** that aligns to the above essential question.
2. Prepare to participate in a Socratic Seminar when you return to school by:
  - ☐ **Reflecting** on the essential question: *To what extent do our choices impact our lives?*
  - ☐ **Taking notes** as you read.
  - ☐ **Choosing one** quote from the beginning, middle, and end of the text (three quotes in total) that is relevant and made an impact on you.

## 9th Grade Summer Reading Book List



**EQ: *How do our choices impact our lives?***



***Go Ask Alice* by Anonymous**

It started when she was served a soft drink laced with LSD in a dangerous party game. Within months, she was hooked, trapped in a downward spiral that took her from her comfortable home and loving family to the mean streets of an unforgiving city. It

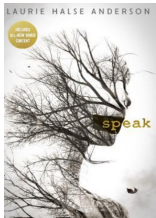
was a journey that would rob her of her innocence, her youth -- and ultimately her life.



***Side Effects May Vary* by Julie Murphy**

When sixteen-year-old Alice is diagnosed with leukemia, she vows to spend her final months righting wrongs. So she convinces her best friend, Harvey, to help her with a crazy bucket list that's as much about revenge as it is about hope. But just when

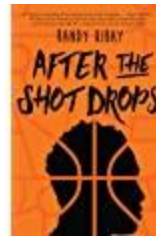
Alice's scores are settled, she goes into remission, and now she must face the consequences of all she's said and done.



***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

In this powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. The first ten lies they tell you in high school. "Speak up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say." From

the first moment of her freshman year Melinda knows this is a big fat lie! She is friendless, an outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. It is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, and is still a threat to her. Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent!



***After the Shot Drops***

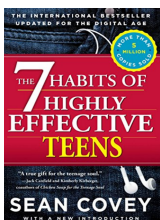
by Randy Ribay

Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends

more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when Wallace is in trouble.

When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision—maybe a dangerous one.

Told from alternating perspectives, *After the Shot Drops* is a heart-pounding story about the responsibilities of great talent and the importance of compassion.



***7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by**

Sean Covey

Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an

entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teen improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world. *This book* will engage teenagers unlike any other book. It is destined to become the last word on surviving and thriving as a teen and beyond!