

ENGLISH 9H SUMMER READING CHOICE NOVELS

Below is a selection of choice novels you may use for your summer reading as you prepare for English 9 Honors in Fall 2025. During your reading you're expected to annotate the novel, either with sticky notes or a separate note sheet, and identify key literary elements such as: **theme, characterization, figurative language, mood, tone, setting**, etc... These annotations will be used to assist you in writing an ondemand PCR assessment to start the school year when you arrive in the fall. In that assignment, you will be comparing your observations in your selected novel with a new, shorter text presented with the PCR assignment.

Each novel below is provided a synopsis for the book itself, as well as a brief explanation of some of the content the novel contains. All these novels have received various levels of critical acclaim and are appropriate for a high school setting; however, please use your best judgment and discuss with your parents on whether or not you feel a book is appropriate for you based on the identified content in the "Potential Issues" segment of each description. In addition, most of these books can be found at your local library, but also purchased on Amazon for a reasonable price. Each hyperlink on the title of the novel links to the Amazon page for that respective book.

Happy reading and I suggest you start ASAP!

[There There - Tommy Orange](#)

NATIONAL BEST SELLER

"An astonishing literary debut!"
—MARGARET ATWOOD via Twitter

ONE OF THE
New York Times
10 BEST BOOKS
OF THE YEAR

There

There

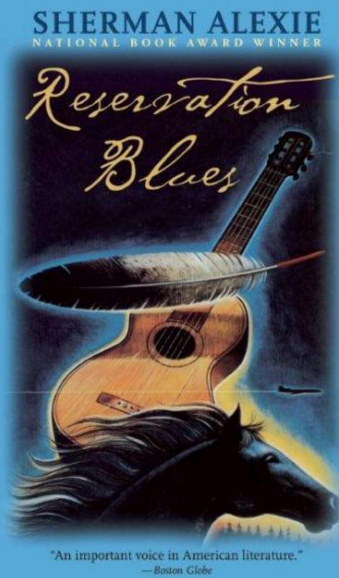
A novel

Tommy Orange

There There, by Tommy Orange, interweaves the lives of twelve Native American characters, each connected by their journey to the Big Oakland Powwow. Through their diverse stories, Orange explores themes of identity, heritage, and modern Native American life. As their paths converge in a dramatic and heart-wrenching climax, the novel offers a powerful, empathetic look at the shared struggles and resilience of a people seeking connection and meaning in a fractured world. This compelling narrative is essential for understanding contemporary Native American experiences.

- **Potential Issues:** This novel contains mature themes including substance abuse, violence, and intergenerational trauma. The complex, interwoven narratives deal with heavy topics such as urban Native American struggles, identity crises, and the impacts of historical injustices. Due to these mature themes, it is more suitable for older teens and adults, and parents might be concerned about its graphic content.

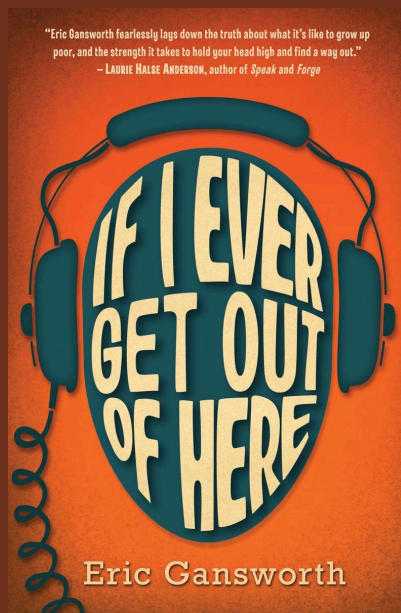
Reservation Blues - Sherman Alexie



In *Reservation Blues*, Sherman Alexie tells the story of a Spokane Indian band formed after legendary blues musician Robert Johnson mysteriously appears on their reservation. As the band members chase their dreams of fame, they confront personal and collective struggles, exploring themes of identity, loss, and cultural resilience. With Alexie's signature blend of humor and poignancy, the novel captures the spirit and challenges of contemporary Native American life, making it an unforgettable tale of hope, music, and survival.

- **Potential Issues:** Sherman Alexie's work often includes mature themes such as alcoholism, sexual content, and cultural trauma. "Reservation Blues" specifically deals with issues like substance abuse, suicide, and systemic oppression. Additionally, Alexie has faced allegations of sexual harassment, which might influence some parents' opinions on using his works in educational settings.

If I Ever Get Out of Here - Eric Gansworth



In *If I Ever Get Out of Here*, by Eric Gansworth, seventh-grader Lewis "Shoe" Blake navigates the challenges of life on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation and at his predominantly white junior high school in the 1970s. When he befriends George Haddonfield, a new kid with a love for rock music, their shared passion helps bridge their cultural divide. As Lewis grapples with issues of identity, racism, and friendship, this heartfelt and humorous novel explores the power of music, the complexities of growing up, and the resilience needed to overcome adversity, making it a compelling read for young adults.

- **Potential Issues:** This novel deals with themes of racism, poverty, and cultural identity. Some parents might be concerned about the depiction of racial tensions and the struggles faced by Native American characters in a predominantly white school. However, it is generally considered appropriate for middle school and up, as it provides valuable insights into the protagonist's life and challenges.

[Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two - Joseph Bruchac](#)



A Novel About
the Navajo Marines of World War Two

In *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac, young Ned Begay, a Navajo boy, is sent to a boarding school where he is forced to abandon his culture and language. However, as World War II erupts, his native tongue becomes a powerful weapon. Recruited by the Marines, Ned becomes a code talker, using Navajo language to create an unbreakable code that proves crucial in the Pacific theater. This gripping novel highlights the bravery and ingenuity of the Navajo Marines, intertwining historical events with Ned's personal journey of pride, resilience, and cultural identity, making it an inspiring read for young adults.

- **Potential Issues:** This novel is generally well-regarded for its historical accuracy and portrayal of the Navajo code talkers. While it includes war scenes and the challenges faced by the Navajo people, it is written for a younger audience and is typically considered appropriate for middle school and up. Parents may still want to be aware of the depiction of war and historical trauma.

[The Martian Chronicles - Ray Bradbury](#)

In Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles*, humanity's dream of colonizing Mars becomes a haunting and profound exploration of the human condition. Set in a future where Earth has become increasingly uninhabitable, the novel follows the intertwined destinies of Earthlings and Martians as they navigate encounters, conflicts, and discoveries on the Red Planet. Bradbury's evocative prose weaves together tales of wonder, longing, and existential reflection, inviting readers on a mesmerizing journey across time and space. With its blend of science fiction, social commentary, and timeless storytelling, *The Martian Chronicles* captivates with its vision of a world both strange and familiar, leaving readers eager to uncover its mysteries and truths.

- **Potential Issues:** While *The Martian Chronicles* is a classic work of science fiction, some parents may have concerns about its content. The novel explores mature themes such as colonization, war, and the destructive nature of humanity. There are instances of violence, including descriptions of war, death, and destruction, which might be disturbing for younger readers. Additionally, Bradbury uses the backdrop of Mars colonization to critique aspects of American society, including racism and environmental degradation, which could

"A modern classic." -THE WASHINGTON POST

**RAY
BRADBURY**



**THE
MARTIAN
CHRONICLES**

provoke discussions or disagreements among parents about its appropriateness for younger readers.