

**Ninth Grade Regular English
2009-2010 Summer Reading List
Opelika High School**

***STUDENTS CHOOSE ONE BOOK**

Title	Author	Genre	Description
<i>Speak</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	Fiction	Melinda Sordino has just started high school as an outcast. She broke up an end-of-summer party by calling the police, so now nobody will talk to her. Something terrible happened to her at the party, which is why she called the cops, but no one is willing to listen. As a result, Melinda has become completely silent. Will she break her silence and speak, or will she choose to remain silent forever? <i>*1999 National Book Award Finalist and winner of the Michael L. Printz award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature.</i>
<i>Heat</i>	Mike Lupica	Fiction	Michael's fastballs can be clocked at over 80 miles per hour, so he's definitely capable of throwing some heat. But sadly, Michael is also feeling the heat in his difficult life. He lost his mother to cancer at a young age, and his father died of a heart attack just a few months after coming to America with Michael and his 17-year-old brother Carlos. If the authorities found out Michael's secret, he and his brother might have to go into foster care or, even worse, be sent back to Cuba.
<i>The Wave</i>	Todd Strasser	Fiction (based on history)	After studying the Holocaust, some of Mr. Ross's students become skeptical that such an occurrence could ever happen. Attempting to bring history to life and teach his students a lesson, Mr. Ross designs a school experiment called The Wave, which becomes popular and takes on a life of its own. Some students begin to think that The Wave is having too much of an impact on the schools and begin to rebel, while others take the project seriously and begin to change in drastic ways. Can The Wave be stopped before it's too late?

**Ninth Grade Honors English
2009-2010 Summer Reading List
Opelika High School**

*** STUDENTS CHOOSE TWO BOOKS**

Title	Author	Genre	Description
<i>Speak</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	Fiction	Melinda Sordino has just started high school as an outcast. She broke up an end-of-summer party by calling the police, so now nobody will talk to her. Something terrible happened to her at the party, which is why she called the cops, but no one is willing to listen. As a result, Melinda has become completely silent. Will she break her silence and speak, or will she choose to remain silent forever? <i>*1999 National Book Award Finalist and winner of the Michael L. Printz award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature.</i>
<i>A Separate Peace</i>	John Knowles	Fiction	This bestseller is set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II. <i>A Separate Peace</i> is a harrowing tale of the obstacles of adolescence. Gene is a lonely intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. An unlikely friendship emerges between the two boys but ends in disaster. <i>A Separate Peace</i> proves that trust and friendship can take years to develop and an instant to destroy.
<i>Slam</i>	Walter Dean Myers	Fiction	Seventeen-year-old Greg Harris was a basketball star at his old school, but things change when he transfers to a magnet school for the arts. Now, he has to learn to fit in and be a team player at his new school. He may not be able to do anything about the rest of his life--his relationships with his family and friends, his grandmother's illness, his scholastic difficulties, or what goes on in his Harlem neighborhood--but when he gets onto the basketball court, "Slam" feels in control.
<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak	Historical Fiction Holocaust Censorship	Told from Death's point-of-view, this novel focuses on the hardships faced in 1939 Nazi Germany. Liesel, a young child, discovers a partially hidden book in the snow. She finds comfort in the words she encounters from these books and gains strength from the images created in the world outside of the one she's currently living. She soon resorts to stealing books, even from Nazi book burnings, putting her life in danger. <i>*New York Times #1 Bestseller and winner of the Michael L. Printz award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature.</i>