MUS 9th-Grade Summer Reading List
Rising 9th graders should read three books over the summer. On his honor a student should choose books that he has not already read. Students will be tested on all three books during the first week of school.


Death on the Nile by Agatha Christie. Mystery. This classic “whodunit” features Hercule Poirot, who must solve a murder mystery while on vacation in Egypt.

The Great Train Robbery by Michael Crichton. Historical fiction. It took Edward Pierce, a criminal mastermind, more than a year to plan the Crime of the Century: the famous Great Gold Robbery of 1855.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer. Fiction. Oskar’s father died in the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. When he finds a key that belonged to his father, Oskar embarks on a quest to find the lock it fits.


The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon. Mystery. When he discovers the neighbor’s dead dog, Christopher launches a murder investigation and discovers more than he had expected.

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. Non-fiction. This is the dramatic and true story of Louie Zamperini, Olympic track star and US Air Force lieutenant during WWII. Flying a mission over the Pacific, Zamperini’s plane goes down. What follows is a remarkable story of survival. Memphis Leaders selection.
**Beatrice and Virgil** by Yann Martel. *Fiction.*
Beatrice (a donkey) and Virgil (a monkey) have experienced something so terrible that they can’t find the words to describe it. This is a surprising and haunting tale.

**Life of Pi** by Yann Martel. *Fiction.*
Pi Patel has survived a shipwreck, but he’s stranded at sea in a lifeboat with an orangutan, a zebra, a hyena, and a Bengal tiger.

**Animal Farm** by George Orwell. *Dystopian allegory.*
In Orwell’s dystopian allegory, “all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”

**Good Omens** by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman. *Fantasy.*
Pratchett and Gaiman fans will love their collaboration on this book about the End of Times. Armageddon has never been sillier.

What is it really like to be hurtled into space for weeks, months, or years? Mary Roach approaches the experience of human beings in space with a mix of scientific detail and a sense of humor.

**The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak. *Fiction.*
Set during WWII in Germany, this novel is narrated by Death: “I do not carry a sickle or scythe. I only wear a hooded black robe when it’s cold . . . You want to know what I look like? . . . Find yourself a mirror while I continue.”