

9th-grade summer reading

Try these classic short stories that deliver powerful ideas in just a few pages. As you read, use the [Short Story Reading Guide](#) to help you think deeply about characters, setting, conflict, and theme.

For each story, you are expected to:

- Annotate the text as you read
- Write a concise summary of the story
- Identify a theme you notice in the text
- Explain the author's purpose in developing that theme

Be prepared to support your ideas with specific evidence from the text.

Summer Reading List

1. "The Sneetches" –Theodor Geisel

[Read the story](#)

Focus: innocence, perspective, prejudice, dehumanization

2. "Harrison Bergeron" – Kurt Vonnegut

[Read the story](#)

Focus: censorship, conformity, loss of critical thinking

3. "There Will Come Soft Rains" by Ray Bradbury

[Read the story](#)

Focus: technology, isolation, destruction, irony, dehumanization, nature vs. technology