

To qualify for **Honors Language Arts 9** or **Honors Geography**, students must meet the following criteria:

- Maintain grades of B or higher in **US History 8** and **Language Arts 8**.
- Pass all of your 8th grade classes.

Prospective 9th Grade honors language arts students are required to make a [BentoBook Project](#).

What is your favorite book of all time? Pick a book to turn into a [BentoBook project](#). Keep in mind that your choice of book should reflect your desire to take a 9th grade, honors-level course. Your book selection will be a direct representation of your academic ability and commitment, so pick wisely. The project can be submitted [HERE](#). **Projects are due no later than the first Friday in May.**

Students will be required to read the following novels *during the first two quarters of 9th grade honors language arts*:

Q1: *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia* by Candace Fleming

[Literature Log](#)

Here is the tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs—at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first person accounts, award-winning author Candace Fleming deftly maneuvers between the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read as well as a perfect resource for meeting Common Core standards.

Q2: *Never Fall Down* by Patricia McCormick

[Literature Log](#)

This National Book Award nominee from two-time finalist Patricia McCormick is the unforgettable story of Arn Chorn-Pond, who defied the odds to survive the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979 and the labor camps of the Khmer Rouge.

Based on the true story of Cambodian advocate Arn Chorn-Pond, and authentically told from his point of view as a young boy, this is an achingly raw and powerful historical novel about a child of war who becomes a man of peace. It includes an author's note and acknowledgements from Arn Chorn-Pond himself.

When soldiers arrive in his hometown, Arn is just a normal little boy. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever.

Arn is separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp: working in the rice paddies under a blazing sun, he sees the other children dying before his eyes. One day, the soldiers ask if any of the kids can play an instrument. Arn's never played a note in his life, but he volunteers.

This decision will save his life, but it will pull him into the very center of what we know today as the Killing Fields. And just as the country is about to be liberated, Arn is handed a gun and forced to become a soldier.