



# BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

## Summer Reading 2025

### Course: English 9

Contact: Mrs. Kirschner ([mkirschner@bishopchatard.org](mailto:mkirschner@bishopchatard.org))

---

1. Select **ONE** of the graphic memoirs below to read.
2. Using the style of the graphic memoir you read, make a comic about yourself or an experience from your own life. Your comic should include at least 9-12 frames with words and pictures. You may do this on paper or digitally (must print). Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind (including use of AI, copying directly from the internet, copying from a friend, etc.) will not be tolerated and will result in academic consequences. **This is due on paper on the first day of class.**
3. Be prepared to write about and discuss your book's structure, characters, and themes the first week of school.

### English 9 Book Options

***Dancing at the Pity Party: A Dead Mom Graphic Memoir* by Tyler Feder** - Tyler Feder had just white-knuckled her way through her first year of college when her super-cool mom was diagnosed with late-stage cancer. Now, with a decade of grief and nervous laughter under her belt, Feder shares the story of that gut-wrenching, heart-pounding, extremely awkward time in her life—from her mom's first oncology appointment to her funeral through the beginning of facing reality as a motherless daughter. She shares the sting of loss that never goes away, the uncomfortable post-death firsts, and the deep-down, hard-to-talk-about feelings of the grieving process.

***Family Style* by Thien Pham** - Thien's first memory isn't a sight or a sound. It's the sweetness of watermelon and the saltiness of fish. It's the taste of the foods he ate while adrift at sea as his family fled Vietnam. After the Pham family arrives at a refugee camp in Thailand, they struggle to survive. Things don't get much easier once they resettle in California. And through each chapter of their lives, food takes on a new meaning. Strawberries come to signify struggle as Thien's mom and dad look for work. Potato chips are an indulgence that bring Thien so much joy that they become a necessity. Behind every cut of steak and inside every croissant lies a story. And for Thien Pham, that story is about a search—for belonging, for happiness, for the American dream.

***Huda F Are You?* by Huda Fahmy** - Huda and her family just moved to Dearborn, Michigan, a small town with a big Muslim population. In her old town, Huda knew exactly who she was: She was the hijabi girl. But in Dearborn, everyone is the hijabi girl. Huda is lost in a sea of hijabis, and she can't rely on her hijab to define her anymore. She has to define herself. So she tries on a bunch of cliques, but she isn't a hijabi fashionista or a hijabi athlete or a hijabi gamer. She's not the one who knows everything about her religion or the one all the guys like. She's miscellaneous, which makes her feel like no one at all. Until she realizes that it'll take finding out who she isn't to figure out who she is.

***March: Book One* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin** - March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall during the Civil Rights Movement.

***Mexikid* by Pedro Martín** - Pedro Martín has grown up hearing stories about his abuelito—his legendary crime-fighting, grandfather who was once a part of the Mexican Revolution! But that doesn't mean Pedro is excited at the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. After all, Pedro has 8 brothers and sisters and the house is crowded enough! Still, Pedro piles into the Winnebago with his family for a road trip to Mexico to bring Abuelito home, and what follows is the trip of a lifetime, one filled with laughs and heartache. Along the way, Pedro finally connects with his abuelito and learns what it means to grow up and find his grito.

***Sunshine: How one camp taught me about life, death, and hope* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka** - When Jarrett J. Krosoczka was in high school, he was part of a program that sent students to be counselors at a camp for seriously ill kids and their families. Going into, Jarrett was worried: Wouldn't it be depressing, to be around kids facing such a serious struggle? Wouldn't it be grim? But instead of the shadow of death, Jarrett found something else at Camp Sunshine: the hope and determination that gets people through the most troubled of times.