

Ramona Scholar in Arts

Summer 2022



Select one of the books listed below to read and then research, view, or listen to the companion work of art. Finally, complete the project below.

- I. *Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina* by Misty Copland.
 - Research and study the history of one or two of the classical dances in which Misty was cast as the lead female role.

- II. *Letters to a Young Artist* by Anna Deveare Smith
Smith is an actor and social activist who has interviewed many people and then portrayed them onstage in one woman shows, and performs in television and film. You can look her up on Imdb.com. She is also a playwright and teacher of theatre, as well as a published author. Her letters are written to a fictional young woman.
 - Study her Tedtalk: On Black Lives Matter, Intersectionality, and Race.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRhQTXW2zPw>

- III. *Letters to a Young Poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke
Rilke was a soldier and a poet in the early 20th century. His letters are written to a real young man, a student who also wanted to be a poet. Rilke wanted to warn the young man about the dangers of the world for a sensitive soul, and to help the young man protect that sensitivity.
 - Research and study "The Panther," a short poem by Rilke. One version is on YouTube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94RWAJBn0Rw>

- IV. *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier
A historical novel about 17th century painter Jan Vermeer:
 - Research and study the actual portrait that inspired the novel

- V. *Symphony for the City of the Dead*, by M.T. Anderson.
This book is a non-fiction account of events during – and leading up to – the 1940s siege of Leningrad under Stalin’s brutal regime and a Nazi assault. Dimitri Shostakovich was a well-known composer who, like many other artists during the World War II era, was forced to be extremely careful so that he would not displease the authorities
- Listen to a recording of the *Leningrad Symphony* and at least one other work by Dmitri Shostakovich.

VI. *The Ninth: Beethoven and the World in 1824*, by Harvey Sachs

From Amazon’s description of the book: “The premiere of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony in Vienna was the most significant artistic event of the year—and the work remains one of the most precedent-shattering and influential compositions in the history of music. Described in vibrant detail by eminent musicologist Harvey Sachs, this symbol of freedom and joy was so unorthodox that it amazed and confused listeners at its unveiling – yet it became a standard for subsequent generations of creative artists, and its composer came to embody the Romantic cult of genius. Part biography, part history, part memoir, *The Ninth* brilliantly explores the intricacies of Beethoven’s last symphony—how it brought forth the power of the individual while celebrating the collective spirit of humanity.”

Listen to the *Ninth Symphony* and at least one other work by Beethoven.

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

- VII. Create your own original work of visual art, dance, drama or music that is inspired by your readings.
- VIII. Present your creation in the format you choose to the Visual and Performing Arts Chair during the first week of school in August. Work that is not visual should be recorded. Be prepared to discuss the relationship between your original art, dance, drama or music and the book you read.
- IX. Please choose a different book if you repeat a scholar project in the Arts

Reap the rewards of reading and creating.

**See an Arts teacher when you are finished with your project,
and be a Ramona Scholar in the arts!**