

North Reading High School

2020 Summer Reading

Welcome to North Reading High School's 2020 Summer Reading Program!

All students must read **two** books over the summer. One book **must** be the assigned grade level title, but the other can come from the suggestions at the end of this document. ***Students may be able to check out a digital copy of their book from the High School Media Center; please contact ksmith@nrpsk12.org for info.***

If students have questions or need help selecting a book, they should contact their English teacher. All students will discuss and be assessed on summer reading in the early part of the 2020-2021 school year. **Academic Decathlon** students should read *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut in addition to their grade level title. **AP Literature** students should read a title from the criteria for a second book listed below in addition to their assigned books; **AP Language** students should read the books specific to their course. AP books can be found on the last page.

Note: It is encouraged that parents participate in the selection of texts to ensure that students are reading appropriate material, both thematically and academically.

Teacher Generated List:

Incoming English 9 Students: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

Incoming English 10 Students: *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to World War II. Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

Incoming American Literature Students: *Assassination Vacation* by Sarah Vowell

New York Times bestselling author of *The Word Shipmates* and contributor to NPR's "This American Life" Sarah Vowell embarks on a road trip to sites of political violence, from Washington DC to Alaska, to better understand our nation's ever-evolving political system and history.

Incoming British Literature Students: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

One freezing morning, a lone man wandering across the Arctic ice caps is rescued from starvation by a ship's captain. Victor Frankenstein's story is one of ambition, murder, and revenge. As a young scientist, he pushed moral boundaries in order to cross the final frontier and create life. But his creation is a monster stitched together from grave-robbled body parts who has no place in the world, and his life can only lead to tragedy. Written when she was only nineteen, Shelley's gothic tale is one of the greatest horror stories ever published.

NRHS Summer Reading 2020

Incoming Contemporary Dramatic Literature Students: *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams

No play in the modern theatre has so captured the imagination and heart of the American public as Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*. As Williams's first popular success, it launched the brilliant, if somewhat controversial, career of our pre-eminent lyric playwright. Since its premiere in Chicago in 1944, with the legendary Laurette Taylor in the role of Amanda, *Menagerie* has been the bravura piece for great actresses from Jessica Tandy to Joanne Woodward, and is studied and performed in classrooms and theatres around the world.

Incoming Journalism Students: *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert

Over the last half-billion years, there have been Five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. In prose that is at once frank, entertaining, and deeply informed, *New Yorker* writer Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. Interweaving research in half a dozen disciplines, descriptions of the fascinating species that have already been lost, and the history of extinction as a concept, Kolbert provides a moving and comprehensive account of the disappearances occurring before our very eyes. She shows that the sixth extinction is likely to be mankind's most lasting legacy, compelling us to rethink the fundamental question of what it means to be human.

Incoming Modern World Literature Students: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

Afghan-American novelist Hosseini follows up his best-selling *The Kite Runner* with a story that covers three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war, and Taliban tyranny through the lives of two women. Mariam is the scorned illegitimate daughter of a wealthy businessman, forced at age 15 to marry 40-year-old Rasheed, who grows increasingly brutal as she fails to produce a child. Eighteen years later, Rasheed takes another wife, 14-year-old Laila, a smart and spirited girl with few options after her parents are killed by rocket fire. Against a backdrop of unending war, Mariam and Laila become allies in an asymmetrical battle with Rasheed, whose violent misogyny is endorsed by custom and law. Hosseini's tale is a powerful, harrowing depiction of Afghanistan and the enduring hopes of its resilient characters.

For their second book, students are encouraged to choose a book that meets one of these criteria. Students may not read a book that they read for summer reading in a previous year or as part of a course at the middle or high school. This book should also be at or above the student's reading level. Parents are encouraged to participate in the selection of this book.

Suggestions for titles that fit these criteria can be found on the North Reading High School Library Media Center website

(<https://sites.google.com/a/north-reading.k12.ma.us/nrhs-library/summer-reading-program-2020>).

- A book with a female protagonist
- A book of poetry
- A book that will make you smarter
- A book with more than 500 pages
- A book that won a Hugo or Nebula Award
- A book that won an Edgar or Dagger Award
- A book originally written in a different language
- A Pulitzer Prize winner, National Book Award or Man Booker Prize winner
- A book more than 100 years old
- A book about the United States
- A history of a country that's not the United States
- A book of popular science
- A book about something you are curious about
- A play
- A book about World War II
- A book of essays
- A microhistory

AP SUMMER READING:

AP Literature Required Books

All students are required to read a title from the criteria for a second book listed on the previous page. In addition to this, students must read the three books below:

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

AP Language Required Books

Students are required to read TWO books over the summer for this course. All students must read ***Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion*** by Jay Heinrichs. In addition, students must read one of the books from this short list of popular nonfiction:

- ***Educated: A Memoir*** by Tara Westover
- ***When Breath Becomes Air*** by Paul Kalanithi, M.D.
- ***The Partly Cloudy Patriot*** by Sarah Vowell
- ***The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*** by Isabel Wilkerson
- ***Into the Wild*** by Jon Krakauer
- ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson

You are encouraged to choose the book that interests you most.

PLEASE NOTE: These works may contain mature and sensitive themes, situations, and language. Consult your parents/guardians when making your choice.