

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

All students must read **two** books over the summer and are free to choose their own titles. Chosen books should be appropriate for students' grade and maturity level and should not have been read in a prior grade. Students are free to read fiction, nonfiction, plays, poetry anthologies, or graphic novels. It is encouraged that parents participate in the selection process to ensure students are reading appropriate material. Additionally, students may be able to check out a digital copy of their book(s) from the High School Media Center.

If students have questions or need help selecting a book, they should contact their English teacher. All students will be crafting an essay based on one of their summer reading titles in the early part of the 2023-2024 school year using the prompt and rubric below. *Students may take notes to prepare for their essay but there is an expectation that this essay will not be written in advance.* The best essays will use specific examples from the text so plan accordingly. Individual English teachers may assign other projects on the books, as well. AP students and Academic Decathlon participants should read their individually assigned titles available on the next page.

Prompt:

What is the main theme of your book? Is this a meaningful message to share with high school readers?

Rubric:

	Progressing Towards the Standard What could be better? (60%-70%)	Meeting the Standard This is what your teacher is looking for (70%-90%)	Exceeding the Standard How did you go above and beyond? (90%-100%)
Thesis/Argument		Introduces a topic with a thesis statement that presents an argument. The thesis is supported with appropriate evidence	
Evidence and Topic Development		Develops a topic with appropriate and sufficient facts, examples, details, and quotations Arguments are clear and support the thesis	
Purpose and Theme		Demonstrates an understanding of the purpose and theme of the written work as well as the ability to make inferences and draw conclusions from it.	
Style		Develops and maintains a style appropriate to the type and purpose of the text Uses good language, vocabulary, and grammar/mechanics	
Organization/ Transitions		Presents text in a coherent manner that is appropriate to purpose, audience, and style, resulting in the reader's or viewer's engagement and understanding Transitions between sections of the text	

Suggestions:

-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 microhistory

-A book with an LGBTQ+ author or protagonist
-A Pulitzer Prize winner, National Book Award or Man Booker Prize winner
-A book that “everyone” has read but you
-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 about sports

-A book of essays
-A book written by an author of color
-A book about American politics
-A graphic novel
-A book about an adventure you’d like to take
-A biography of an American president
-A book of popular science
-A book about something you are curious about

Academic Decathlon students should read *The Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K. LeGuin as one of their choice titles.

AP Literature students are required to read a title from the criteria for a book listed above. In addition to this, students must read the **three** books below:

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

AP Language students are required to read TWO books over the summer for this course (in addition to their written assignments). 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. The most updated edition of this book was published in 2020. In addition, APEL 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 Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicholas Carr (updated edition published in 2020)
- *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann
- *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer
- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

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

PLEASE NOTE: These works may contain mature and sensitive themes, situations, and language. Parents/guardians should be consulted during the book selection process.