

# GRADE 10 SUMMER READING SELECTIONS

## Norfolk County Agricultural High School

### Philosophy

Summer reading is a **key component** to the educational development of all students. Over the summer, all incoming freshmen and upperclassmen are required to complete one or more books (depending on their scheduled English course for the fall). Please read through this packet carefully.

### Requirement/s

**All sophomore** students are required to read ONE book from NCAHS Grade 10 Summer Reading List. **Students assigned to English 121 for the fall** are required to read **TWO** books from the 10th grade Summer Reading list. The list of book titles is in this packet.

### Assessment

Students will answer an MCAS-type essay prompt in their English classes **on the Friday of the first full week of school**. On the day of the essay assessment, students will be allowed to bring into class a 3 x 5 index card with information pertaining to their summer reading book/s. This information can be used to write the essay in class. A list of MCAS-type assessment prompts can be found on the main Summer Reading page on the Aggie website at the beginning of August.

### Extra Credit Activity

In addition, students may choose one assignment from any of the extra credit activities - also listed on the main Summer Reading page - to do for an Extra Credit grade. Only **one** extra credit activity (per summer) is allowed. A student's English teacher will determine when the extra credit will be due for his/her class and how much credit will be awarded. The list of Extra Credit activities are also attached to the end of this packet.

### Book Reading Levels

Students should be aware of the reading levels, genre, and subject matter when choosing his/her book/s for his/her independent summer reading. Students may find these books at local libraries, Borders Books, or Barnes and Noble stores.

### Note to Parents

*Parents are encouraged to review the recommended selections prior to their son-daughter reading their book/s. Some young adult literature often deals with subjects that are controversial and realistic. Any questions concerning the summer reading assignments may be directed to the principal, Mrs. Suzanne Green.*

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### Grade 10 Summer Reading List (p. 1 of 2)

#### Realistic Fiction

- Touching Spirit Bear, Ben Mikaelson, less challenging

After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen-year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative program based on the Native American Circle Justice. He is sent to a remote Alaskan island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

- Monster, Walter Dean Myers, less challenging

Steve is a 16-year old accused of assisting in a robbery of a drugstore where the owner was shot and killed. Awaiting trial for murder, he tells about his life from a different perspective, a movie screenplay. Was he guilty, or was he in the wrong place at the wrong time?

- 19 Minutes, Jodi Picoult, grade level

Set in New Hampshire, this is the story of a 17-year old, bullied for years, who brings weapons to school one day and opens fire, killing 10 people. The insights into all characters involved make this a compelling novel.

- Wuthering Heights, Emile Bronte, more challenging

The classic British novel of an orphaned boy taken in by the Earnshaw family and raised as one of their own--but when Cathy, the wild sister, becomes the boy's constant companion they begin a tormented relationship. Will forbidden love and vengeance destroy them all?

#### Historical Fiction

- The Virgin's Lover, Phillipa Gregory, more challenging

As a new queen, Elizabeth I faced a French invasion and her passion for a convicted (and married) traitor. Blending historical fact with contemporary rumor, this is a tense novel of Tudor England and the queen who stopped at nothing to get what she wanted.

- Fever, 1793, Laurie Halse Anderson, less challenging

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

- A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor, less challenging

While fishing with friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, a teen named Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack. Through the chaos of the next days he tries to find his father, a naval officer, who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

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### Grade 10 Summer Reading List, contd.(p. 2 of 2)

#### Science Fiction/Fantasy

- Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury, grade level

The classic futuristic novel, set in a time when books are forbidden and burned by a totalitarian regime. The hero, a fireman, whose job it is to burn books, begins to realize the truth about censorship and government control and tries to stop it. A chilling read.

- Ender's Game, Card, less challenging

Aliens have attacked the Earth twice and have almost destroyed it. To make certain the human race will continue, the government begins breeding military geniuses and then trains them in the art of war. The early training takes the form of 'war games.' Ender Wiggin is genius of all geniuses—winner of all games—but can he save the planet?

- Wicked, Gregory McGuire, more challenging

Set in Oz, the book tells the story of the green-skinned wicked witch of the west and about avenging her dear sister's death. A funny and popular read!

#### Mystery

- A is for Alibi, Sue Grafton (or any other in the Grafton series), less challenging

Out on parole following a conviction for murdering her husband, Niki Fife hires investigator, Kinsey Milhone, to follow the trail leading to the real killer.

#### Non-Fiction

- In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle, Madeleine Blais, more challenging

A Massachusetts town supports its female athletes in a way that used to be reserved for male athletes only. In this true story of a team vying for the state basketball championship, the athletes meet discouragement and important challenges along the way. Do they win?

- The Hot Zone, Richard Preston, grade level

This frightening story of an ebola virus outbreak in a laboratory near Washington D.C. is even scarier than fiction because it actually happened. The book contains descriptions of historic epidemics of other rare and deadly viruses.

- Warriors Don't Cry, Melba Patillo Beals, grade level

From her own diaries, the author tells the true stories about how she and other black students were chosen to integrate Central High School in Little Rock. They endured both physical and emotional abuse from some who opposed integration and were helped by some who did not object in this struggle for freedom and equality in education.

- Friday Night Lights, H. G. Bissinger, grade level

The Odessa, Texas high school football team, the Permian Panthers, have the best football record in state history. This is the true story of how they and their community work together to achieve success both on and off the field.

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### NCAHS SUMMER READING EXTRA CREDIT

A list of 12 possible extra credit activities is provided here for students. Extra credit will be due on or around the time of the Summer Reading Assessment Essay. Only **one** extra credit project is allowed per student per summer. *The amount of extra credit awarded and due date will be determined by the student's English teacher during the first week of school.*

1. Write a letter to the author expressing your opinion of the book. Include references to specific characters, events, and ideas (300 word minimum).
2. Draw a picture of the most important moment in the book. Include a well-developed paragraph explaining why it is such a vital scene (drawing quality factors into the grade).
3. Write a poem about one of the book's themes. Explain the theme and how it is reflected in the poem (poem must be at least 14 lines in length).
4. Predict what you think would happen if there were a sequel to the book (300 word minimum).
5. Compare a character or situation in the book to someone you know or something you have experienced (300 word minimum).
6. Write an interview with one of the characters that reveals an understanding of the character and the book's conflicts or themes (300 word minimum).
7. Compare and contrast your book to another book, movie, or an article of similar subject (300 word minimum).
8. Choose 3 songs that relate to your book. Copy the lyrics and write a fully-developed paragraph explaining how each relates to the book.
9. Write three journal entries as if you are one of the main characters. Demonstrate an understanding of the characters, their conflicts, and the story (300 word minimum).
10. Pretend you are the book's author. Explain which part of the book was easiest to write and which was the most difficult. Demonstrate some knowledge of the author and his/her life or career (300 word minimum).
11. Make the front page of a newspaper in which all the articles, pictures, and advertisements relate to your book, the characters, and its themes.
12. Create a jacket cover for your book. It should include attractive artwork, a reflection of the book's subject, and a summary of the book (quality of artwork will be factored into the grade).