

GRADE 11 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.

Requirements

All junior students are required to read ONE book from NCAHS Grade 11 Summer Reading List. **Students assigned to English 131 for the fall** are required to read **TWO** books from the 11th 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 11 Summer Reading List

Realistic Fiction

- A Tree Grows In Brooklyn, Betty Smith, grade level

The classic novel is about a young girl's coming of age among the crowded slums of Brooklyn, NY. The story is filled with compassion, cruelty, and laughter as Francie grows up with her alcoholic father and realistic mother, and learns the meaning of hunger, while hungry for beauty and meaning. The book is realistic, meaningful, funny, and often a favorite among readers.

- Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson, less challenging

When Melinda's friends discover it was she who called the police to report a party, they ostracize her, turning her into an outcast. But even worse than the harsh conformity and treatment of and by high-school cliques is the secret she feels she must hide.

- Life of Pi, Yann Martel, more challenging

16-year old Pi Patel is raised in India as the son of a zookeeper. When the family decides to move to Canada with what is left of the zoo animals, the enormous freighter is shipwrecked. Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific, trapped on a lifeboat for 227 days with four exotic animals--only his faith and wits can help him survive.

- Runner, Carl Deuker, less challenging

When a new—and much needed—job falls his way, Chance Taylor jumps at the opportunity to help out his failing alcoholic dad. Becoming a “runner” who picks up strange packages along his daily running route, he delivers them to a shady man. Chase knows how much he will earn—what he doesn't know is how much he will pay.

- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon, grade level

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, a 15 year old autistic boy decides to investigate the murder of his neighbor's dog, only to discover some family secrets along the way. This book is a different read and has an interesting narrator.

Historical Fiction

- Fallen Angels, Walter Dean Myers, less challenging

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and ends up spending a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam. This is an amazing coming-of-age story about the impact of war.

- A Farewell to Arms, Ernest Hemingway, more challenging

This is a classic novel about World War I—and the pain and devastation it brought to many. Both a war novel and a love story, an American ambulance driver falls in love with an English nurse on the Italian front. The intense description of the German attack on Caporetto is considered one of finest scenes in literary history.

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Grade 11 Summer Reading List, contd.

Mystery

- The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon, Stephen King, grade level

Nine-year-old Trisha wanders away from her bickering family and comes to be lost on the Maine portion of the Appalachian Trail. Only her wits, courage and her beloved Red Sox can protect her from the dangers—both real and imagined—in the dense woods

- I Am the Messenger, Markus Zusak, less challenging

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins to receive mysterious messages that direct him to address where people need help. Will his new-found mission get him over his lifelong feelings of worthlessness?

Science Fiction/Fantasy

- Son of a Witch, Gregory Maguire, more challenging

The second in a series after the popular Wicked novel from the Land of Oz. This is the story of Lir, the teenage boy battered and comatose after Elphaba has melted. Is he Elphaba's son? Does he too have magical powers? And who is his half-sister?

- Brave New World, Aldous Huxley, more challenging

This book is a futuristic and dark look into a 'utopian' society of tomorrow. In this purely capitalistic society, humans are genetically bred and drugged to be 'happy' and passive—or are they? A frightening look into our future, maybe even the *near* future.

Non-fiction

- My Dog Skip, Willie Morris, grade level

The story of a dog and his closest companion, the author, growing up through the 1940's and 1950's in a small town in Mississippi. This is quite a dog!

- Tuesdays with Morrie, Mitch Albom, less challenging

The story of Mitch's weekly visits with his favorite college professor, Morrie Schwartz. Stricken with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), Morrie nevertheless finds humor, meaning, and purpose in living and dying—and teaches Mitch some of life's greatest lessons.

- Seabiscuit, Laura Hillenbrand, more challenging

This is the story of a magical race horse that captivated the spirit of America during the Great Depression. Seabiscuit provides an inside look at the culture of horse racing; a beautifully written story of triumph over despair.

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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).