

GRADE 9 SUMMER READING PACKET 2008

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 freshmen students are required to read ONE book from NCAHS Grade 9 Summer Reading List; **students assigned to English 111 for the fall** are required to read TWO books from the 9th 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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NCAHS GRADE 9 SUMMER READING LIST (page 1 of 2)

Realistic Fiction

- Freak the Mighty, Rodman Philbrick, less challenging

Two eighth-grade boys, one physically-impaired and one learning disabled, become fast friends and form a partnership in a story of triumph over imperfection, shame and loss.

- Miracle Boys, Jacqueline Woodson, grade level

Three brothers are raising themselves after both their father and mother die. Each boy learns to deal with his grief and, in the end, how to survive.

- Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens, more challenging

In 19th Century London, a young mother dies giving birth to her son Oliver. As a young boy, Oliver endures many difficulties, including being forced to work for a criminal mastermind, and he meets many unusual people in this classic story of a boy's struggle to overcome poverty.

- Night Hoops, Carl Deuker, less challenging

Filled with basketball action and surprises, this story tells of two players on the high school team and the challenges they face on their team and in their friendship.

Historical Fiction

- The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman, Robert Gaines, more challenging

This novel follows the fictional life of a 110-year-old woman who has lived through both slavery and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. Her wit and imagination form a memorable character who lived in difficult times.

Mystery

- The Man Who Was Poe, Avi, less challenging

After Edmund's family has disappeared, a mysterious stranger follows him through the city of Providence in the 1800s in this suspense-filled story of unknown dangers.

- I Know What You Did Last Summer, Lois Duncan, less challenging

A suspenseful thriller about a group of high school students who try to conceal a shocking secret, only to find out that someone is seeking revenge for their actions.

- A Stranger is Watching, Mary Higgins Clark, grade level

A killer waits in the shadows while another innocent man has been found guilty and waits on death row for execution. Who wants members of the Peterson family to die, and why?

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NCAHS GRADE 9 SUMMER READING LIST (page 1 of 2)

Science Fiction/Fantasy

- Stargirl, Jerry Spinelli, grade level

Leo, a high school junior, falls in love with a magical new student who is a free spirit and a nonconformist, and he and the reader discover important lessons about loyalty to friends and to oneself.

- Gathering Blue, Lois Lowry, less challenging

Kira, an orphan, lives in a futuristic but primitive society. Skilled as an embroiderer, she lives with other artists in a stone building and discovers with them how she can shape her own future.

- The Magician's Nephew, C.S. Lewis, grade level

Diggory and Polly are exploring in their uncle's house when they find rings formed by magic dust that transport them to a fantastic land where they meet the White Witch.

Nonfiction

- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, Sean Covey, grade level

Real-life stories of teens who have overcome difficult obstacles, along with a humorous and entertaining guide showing how teens can achieve success in their lives.

- Woodsong, Gary Paulsen, grade level

Paulsen writes an autobiographical action tale of his experiences as a dogsledder and of his 17 days participating in the Iditarod race in the Alaskan wilderness.

- Death Be Not Proud, John Gunther, more challenging

A deeply moving memoir of a famous journalist's brave and spirited seventeen-year-old son who died of a brain tumor, showing others how to live.

NCAHS SUMMER READING EXTRA CREDIT

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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).