

North Hunterdon High School - Summer Reading

GRADE 9

9th grade summer reading assignments are available on the [9th Grade Summer Reading site](#).

GRADE 10

10th grade Honors English: Read *The Bean Trees* (Kingsolver) and one other 10th grade book.

All other 10th graders: Read 2 books from:

All Creatures Great and Small (Herriot)
All Quiet on the Western Front (Remarque)
And Then There Were None (Christie)
Armageddon Summer (Yolen & Coville)
The Bean Trees (Kingsolver)
Bless the Beasts and Children (Swarthout)
Circle of Friends (Binchy)
A Cry in the Night (Clark)
The Eyes of the Dragon (King)
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter (McCullers)
Looking for Alaska (Green)
Night (Wiesel)
Peeling the Onion (Orr)
The Sledding Hill (Crutcher)
Things Fall Apart (Achebe)
The Time Machine (Wells)

GRADE 11

11th grade AP English Language and Composition:
Read 2 books:

- *Notes of a Native Son* (Baldwin)
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (Douglass)

All other 11th graders: Read 2 books from:

Ender's Game (Card)
The Fixer (Malamud)
Giants in the Earth (Rolvaag)
Girl with a Pearl Earring (Chevalier)
The Good Earth (Buck)
The Hot Zone (Preston)
How I Live Now (Rosoff)
Into the Wild (Krakauer)
The Joy Luck Club (Tan)
A Lesson Before Dying (Gaines)
Little Women (Alcott)
The Old Man and the Sea (Hemingway)
Ordinary People (Guest)
Our Town (Wilder)
A Prayer for Owen Meany (Irving)
The Things They Carried (O'Brien)

GRADE 12

12th grade AP English Language and Composition
Read 2 books:

- *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (Garcia Marquez)
- *Light in August* (Faulkner)

All other 12th graders: Read 2 books from:

Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors (Read)
Angela's Ashes (McCourt)
Autobiography of a Face (Grealy)
Black and Blue (Quindlen)
Cold Mountain (Charles Frazier)
The Fifth Child (Lessing)
The Fountainhead (Rand)
Grendel (Gardner)
Hiroshima (Hersey)
Inexcusable (Lynch)
Jane Eyre (Bronte)
People's Choice (Greenfield)
Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver)
Their Eyes Were Watching God (Hurston)
A Thief of Time (Hillerman)
Watership Down (Adams)
Wuthering Heights (Bronte)

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Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*

Tells the story of Okonkwo, strongman of an Ibo village in Nigeria, as he witnesses the destruction of his culture and the loss of his own place within it.

Adams, Richard. *Watership Down*

Faced with the annihilation of its warren, a small group of rabbits sets out across the English downs in search of a new home.

Alcott, Louisa. *Little Women*

The story of the March family, whose daughters are growing up in New England in the mid-1800s.

Baldwin, James. *Notes of a Native Son*

Originally published in 1955, James Baldwin's first nonfiction book has become a classic. These searing essays on life in Harlem, the protest novel, movies, and Americans abroad remain as powerful today as when they were written.

Binchy, Maeve. *Circle of Friends*

Binchy transports readers to the village of Knockglen in Ireland to meet Benny, the only child of doting parents; Eve Malone, an orphan raised by nuns; and a host of local characters.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*

Jane Eyre, a timid orphan, is sent to a boarding school, where she stays to become a teacher. Tired of teaching, Jane takes a position as governess for the ward of Edward Rochester. Jane falls in love with Rochester and does not learn of his insane wife until the day she is to marry.

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*

Mr. Lockwood meets the spirit of Catherine at Wuthering Heights. Heathcliff, an unsociable man who was taken off the streets by Catherine's father and who fell in love with Catherine, continues to work his revenge against all those who had injured him before his inheritance.

Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth*

A sympathetically authentic picture of pre-Revolutionary Chinese life. Wang Lung and his wife O-lan rise from peasants to rich landowners through their own determination and persistence and the "good earth."

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*

This exciting science fiction novel introduces Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, a genetically bred child who is the hope of the government to save earth from aliens. They train him by playing military games and he always wins. But can he win the "game" to save the earth from the aliens?

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

A coming of age story about the 16-year-old girl who is the model for Vermeer's famous painting. 17th century Delft comes alive with the details of everyday life in the household of this famous painter.

Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None*

The story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets – until they begin to die.

Clark, Mary Higgins. *A Cry in the Night*

When Jenny meets Erich, the man of her dreams, she's ecstatic. They marry quickly and Jenny plans a loving home on Erich's vast Minnesota farm. But Jenny soon unearths a past more terrifying than she dares imagine ... tragic secrets that threaten her marriage, her children, and her life.

Crutcher, Chris. *The Sledding Hill*

Billy, who recently died, keeps an eye on his best friend, 14-year-old Eddie, and helps him stand up to a conservative minister and English teacher who is orchestrating a censorship challenge.

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

An autobiographical account of a childhood and youth spent in slavery by a man who became a great abolitionist and leader of anti-slavery activity

Faulkner, William. *Light In August*

Race, religion, and the southern community are dominating themes of this compelling novel from the 1930s. The central character, Joe Christmas, is an orphan with mixed bloodlines, antisocial tendencies, and a harsh personal history.

Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*

Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, leaves the hospital where he is being treated and determines to walk home. The story of Ada, his sweetheart, is intertwined with Inman's. Based on the story of the author's great-great grandfather who deserted during the Civil War.

Gaines, Ernest J. *A Lesson Before Dying*

In a small Louisiana community in the late 1940s, Jefferson, a retarded African-American youth, is wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to die. Wiggins, another African-American, is called upon to help him die with pride.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

An isolated Latin American town is the setting for this dark thriller, which features a spectacular wedding, a sudden scandal, and a murder to which the entire town appears to be an accessory before the fact.

Gardner, John. *Grendel*

Grendel retells the *Beowulf* legend from the monster's point of view.

Grealy, Lucy. *Autobiography of a Face*

Recalls Grealy's cancer, which required the removal of a third of her jaw when she was 9 years old. Discusses the suffering she endured from classmates, strangers, and others because of her looks.

Green, John. *Looking for Alaska*

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a car crash.

Greenfield, Jeff. *People's Choice*

When the newly elected president falls off a horse and dies of an embolism, it is assumed that the vice-president elect will take his job until one of the electors begins an insurrection and constitutional chaos breaks out. A humorous, cautionary tale.

Guest, Judith. *Ordinary People*

The death of one of two sons in an "ordinary" family proves disastrous to the remaining son and brings the family to crisis and disintegration.

Hemingway, Ernest. *The Old Man and the Sea*

Chronicles Santiago's fight with a huge marlin and his struggle to bring it back to his village.

Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small*

A heartwarming autobiographical account of a country veterinarian in Yorkshire, England, who cared for all creatures great and small.

Hersey, John. *Hiroshima*

The story of six ordinary people – a clerk, a physician, a minister, a widowed seamstress, a young surgeon, and a German priest – starting at 8:15, when the first atom bomb was dropped. The author follows the course of their lives hour by hour and day by day.

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Hillerman, Tony. *A Thief of Time*

Chilling discoveries unearthed at a dig for Navajo pottery bring Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee to the site and put them on the trail of stolen artifacts, a missing woman, and bizarre murders.

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Janie Crawford, a woman living in the black town of Eaton, Florida during the 1930s, is independent and articulate. Married three times and accused and tried for the murder of one of her husbands, she continues to search for her real identity.

Irving, John. *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

A terrifying story of what happens in Owen Meany's life as a result of hitting a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother.

King, Stephen. *The Eyes of the Dragon*

A horror fantasy featuring dragons, princes, evil wizards, an enchanted castle, and a terrible secret.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees*

Taylor Greer hits the road and inherits a 3-year-old Cherokee girl who manages to slowly wind her way into Taylor's heart.

—*The Poisonwood Bible*

Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959. Presents the experiences they have while living in Africa and how they affect each member of the family in a different way.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*

Examines the true-life mystery behind 24-year-old Chris McCandless, who walked into the Alaskan wilderness on an idealistic journey and was found dead of starvation four months later.

Lessing, Doris. *The Fifth Child*

Ben, the fifth child of Harriet and David Lovett, puts an end to the idealistic household. This child, from before birth until his teenage years, is not normal by any societal standards.

Lynch, Chris. *Inexcusable*

High school senior Keir cripples an opposing football player and calls it an "unfortunately magnificent hit." He calls his heavy drinking recreational camaraderie. And he sees date rape as a declaration of love. Keir chronicles the events of his senior year in this book that challenges the reader to find the truth behind the excuses.

Malamud, Bernard. *The Fixer*

Yakov Bok, a Jewish handyman, is wrongly accused of murdering a Christian boy in czarist Russia.

McCourt, Frank. *Angela's Ashes*

Memoirs of growing up in the slums of Limerick, Ireland, with an alcoholic father, the power of the Irish Catholic Church, and the shame of poverty.

McCullers, Carson. *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*

John Singer, a deaf-mute, becomes the confidante of four people in a Southern town. Biff Brannon, the owner of a café, Mick Kelly, an adolescent girl, Jake Blount, a radical, and Benedict Copeland, the town's black doctor, all desire to escape from the boredom of the town and find that Singer understands and cares for them.

O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*

The men of Alpha Company battle the enemy and sometimes each other in this intimate look into the world of the soldier during the Vietnam War.

Orr, Wendy. *Peeling the Onion*

Anna Duncan has just won a karate championship when her neck is broken in a car accident. Anna must adjust to vast changes in life. Pain, uncertainty, and fear become her companions as she moves toward the future. Loyalty and disloyalty, love and separation, true friendship and fair-weather friendship are all addressed in this complex novel.

Preston, Richard. *The Hot Zone*

The Hot Zone reads more like a horror novel than the true account it is of a hot virus that nearly burned through the suburbs of Washington, D.C. in 1989.

Quindlen, Anna. *Black and Blue*

After Fran's passionate marriage turns into a nightmare, she runs away to Florida with her 10-year-old son and starts a new life under a new name, living in fear yet with increasing hope that her abusive will not track her down.

Rand, Ayn. *The Fountainhead*

A brilliant story of society's attempt to stifle the creativity of one person.

Read, Piers Paul. *Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors*

One of the greatest survival stories of all time, *Alive* relates the experiences of the survivors of a plane that crashed in the Andes Mountains.

Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Four German youths are pulled abruptly from school to serve at the front as soldiers in World War I. Although the young men of this novel are German, the message is universal in its delineation of the feelings of the common soldier.

Rolvaag, O.E. *Giants in the Earth*

The classic story of a Norwegian pioneer family's struggles with the land and the elements of the Dakota Territory as they try to make a new life in America.

Rosoff, Meg. *How I Live Now*

To get away from her stepmother in New York City, 15-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds. Soon war breaks out and rips apart the family and devastates the land. A frightening picture of a world war in the 21st century.

Swarthout, Glendon. *Bless the Beasts and Children*

Six troubled teenagers group together, develop self-esteem, and eventually heal their psychological wounds at an Arizona summer camp that specializes in "turning boys into cowboys."

Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club*

Chapters alternate among the lives of four women in pre-1949 China and their American-born daughters in California.

Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*

The Time Traveler plots his machine to the year 802,700 and finds himself in what appears to be a utopia. His problems begin when his time machine is stolen and he encounters a subterranean race.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*

A terrifying account of the Nazi death camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family, the death of his innocence, and the death of his God.

Wilder, Thornton. *Our Town*

A drama of life in a small New Hampshire village called Grover's Corners. The people of the village go about their lives during a few years in the early 1900s.

Yolen, Jane and Bruce Coville. *Armageddon Summer*

The followers of a religious cult gather on a mountaintop to await the end of the world. Among them are teenagers Marina and Jed, who fall in love and must come to terms with their own beliefs and feelings as they await the end of the world.