

North Arlington High School

Summer Reading List



These works were chosen as **required** selections to prepare students for the themes of the upcoming school year. We have provided an extensive list based on interest and reading levels. Please note the requirements for each grade level. In September, students will be assessed on the reading selections and their correlating themes. Please visit <https://www.bccls.org> for local library listings as well as <https://www.gutenberg.org/> for digital and audio options.

Important Information about the Selection Process:

****Interest Level** numbers indicate topics that are considered appropriate for this particular age group. This includes violence, some adult language, and adult themes. These ratings were taken from the following resources: <http://www.scholastic.com>, <https://www.goodreads.com>, <https://www.hmhbooks.com>, and <https://www.commonensemedia.org/>. These readings were also screened by the NAHS Language Arts Department. Parents and/or Guardians, who do not find readings suitable for their children, may contact the Curriculum Office and request alternate options.

***Lexile Level** is "the numeric representation of an individual's reading ability or a text's readability (or difficulty)." For more information, visit <https://lexile.com/>. or www.fab.lexile.com

Incoming 9th Grade Reading List

Summer Reading Themes: *Determination/ Perseverance/ Power/ Fate versus Free Will / Morality/ Coming of Age*

Summer Reading Requirements: Incoming **ELA Honors** students are required to read ***Antigone*** and choose one extension text prior to the start of the school year; this is a total of two texts. All **general education ELA** students **must choose one** title from this list to read prior to the start of the school year.

Antigone

By Sophocles

Synopsis: The curse placed on Oedipus lingers and haunts a younger generation in this new and brilliant translation of Sophocles' classic drama. The daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta, Antigone is an unconventional heroine who pits her beliefs against the King of Thebes in a bloody test of wills that leaves few unharmed. Emotions fly as she challenges the king for the right to bury her own brother. Determined but doomed, Antigone shows her inner strength throughout the play.

****Interest Level:** Grades 9-12

***Lexile:** 1570L

My Name is Not Easy

By Debby Dahl Edwardson

Synopsis: At Sacred Heart School, students Eskimo, Indian, and white line up on different sides of the cafeteria like there's some kind of war going on. Here, speaking Iñupiaq or any native language is forbidden. And Father Mullen, whose fury is like a force of nature, is ready to slap down those who disobey. Luke struggles to survive at Sacred Heart. But he's not the only one. There's smart-aleck Amiq, a daring leader if he doesn't self-destruct; Chickie, blond and freckled, a different kind of outsider; and small, quiet Junior, noticing everything and writing it all down. They each have their own story to tell. But once their separate stories come together, things at Sacred Heart School and the wider world will never be the same.

****Interest Level:** Grades 9-12

***Lexile:** 830L

Piecing Me Together

By Renée Watson

Synopsis: Jade is an aspiring artist, and she tries to take advantage of every opportunity that comes along to help her find success. She commutes to an elite private school every day and is especially looking forward to a chance to go on the school's study abroad trip this year when she is suddenly enrolled in a mentorship program called Women to Women. Jade is positive she's selected for this only because she is poor and black, and as a result she resents the placement.

****Interest Level:** Grade 9

***Lexile:** 680

And Then There Were None

By Agatha Christie

Synopsis: Ten strangers, apparently with little in common, are lured to an island mansion off the coast of Devon by the mysterious U.N.Owen. Over dinner, a record begins to play, and the voice of an unseen host accuses each person of hiding a guilty secret. That evening, former reckless driver Tony Marston is found murdered by a deadly dose of cyanide. The tension escalates as the survivors realize the killer is not only among them but is preparing to strike again... and again...

****Interest Level:** Grades 9-12

***Lexile:** 570

Incoming 10th Grade Reading List

Summer Reading Themes: *Strength of the Human Spirit/ Diversity/ Hope/ Courage*

Summer Reading Requirements: Incoming **ELA Honors** students are required to read *The Namesake*, and choose one extension text prior to the start of the school year; this is a total of two texts. All **general education ELA** students **must choose one** title from this list to read prior to the start of the school year.

Cry, the Beloved Country

By Alan Paton

Synopsis: Paton's deeply moving story of Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set against the backdrop of a land and people riven by racial inequality and injustice, remains the most famous and important novel in South Africa's history. Passionately African, yet timeless and universal, it is a work of searing beauty. Agonizing over the future of South Africa, both blacks and whites alike must find a way to end the conditions that are causing native youth to turn to lives of prostitution, theft, and even murder. When the teenage son of a native preacher accidentally kills one of the few white men who could have changed the situation, it falls to two fathers to reach a higher understanding of race relations.

****Interest Level:** Grades 10-11

***Lexile:** 860L

Daisy Miller

By Henry James

Synopsis: *Daisy Miller* is Henry James's classic story of a young American woman who while traveling in Europe is courted by Frederick Winterbourne. Originally published in The Cornhill Magazine in 1878, "Daisy Miller" is a novel that plays upon the contrast between American and European society that is common to James's work. The title character's youthful innocence is sharply contrasted with the sophistication of European society in this fatefully tragic tale.

****Interest Level:** Grades 10-12

***Lexile:** 1430

The Namesake

By Jhumpa Lahiri

Synopsis: *The Namesake* takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name. Lahiri brings great empathy to Gogol as he stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves.

****Interest Level:** Grades 10-12

***Lexile:** 1210

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII

By Joseph Bruchac

Synopsis: After being taught in a boarding school that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

****Interest Level:** Grades 9-10

***Lexile:** 910

Incoming 11th Grade Reading List

Summer Reading Themes: *Justice/ Perception/ Loyalty/ Change/ Human Nature/ Freedom*

Summer Reading Requirements: Incoming ELA Honors students are required to read *The Federalist Papers* and choose one extension text prior to the start of the school year; this is a total of two texts. All general education ELA students must choose one title from this list to read prior to the start of the school year.

The Federalist Papers (numbers 1, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 &35)

By Alexander Hamilton

Synopsis: *The Federalist Papers* were a series of eighty-five essays urging the citizens of New York to ratify the new United States Constitution. Written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, the essays originally appeared anonymously in New York newspapers in 1787 and 1788 under the pen name "Publius."

****Interest Level:** Grades 11-12

***Lexile:** 1450L

An excerpt from The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

By Benjamin Franklin

Synopsis: Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) is one of the Founding Fathers of America, known for signing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as well as for his foreign service and many inventions. In this essay, he details 13 virtues that he sought to cultivate his character, including them in his autobiography. This project was grounded in Franklin's Puritan roots, as well as in the Enlightenment Era's emphasis on reason and self-improvement.

****Interest Level:** Grades 11-12

***Lexile:** 1270L

The Heretic's Daughter

By Kathleen Kent

Synopsis: Sarah is the 10-year-old daughter of Martha Carrier, one of the first women to be accused, tried, and hanged as a witch in Salem, Massachusetts. Seen through the eyes of a child, this 1691-1692 account is more than a retelling of this dark time in American history. It is the story of love and loyalty between family members. At first, Sarah is always at odds with her mother. But gradually, Sarah's bond with her mother strengthens even as neighbors and townsfolk turn an accusing finger toward Martha.

****Interest Level:** Grades 9-12

***Lexile:** 1009L

Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War

By Steve Sheinkin

Synopsis: This non-fiction novel is about how whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg transformed from an obscure government analyst into "the most dangerous man in America," and risked everything to expose years of government lies during the Nixon/Cold War Era. On June 13, 1971, the front page of the New York Times announced the existence of a 7,000-page collection of documents containing a secret history of the Vietnam War. Known as The Pentagon Papers, these files had been commissioned by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. This provocative and political book interrogates the meanings of patriotism, freedom, and integrity.

****Interest Level:** Grades 9-12

***Lexile:** 890L

Incoming 12th Grade Reading List

Summer Reading Themes: *Loyalty/ Repression/ Manipulation/ Power/ Philosophical Interpretations/ Archetypes*

Summer Reading Requirements: Incoming **ELA Honors** students are required to read **1984** and choose one extension text prior to the start of the school year; this is a total of two texts. All **general education ELA** students **must choose one** title from this list to read prior to the start of the school year.

Wuthering Heights

By Emily Bronte

Synopsis: Wuthering Heights is recognized as a gothic romance. It follows the lives of the Earnshaws and the Lintons and of two love triangles. Heathcliff is the adoptive son of Earnshaw who eventually falls in love with Catherine Earnshaw. They have a forbidden love and end up marrying other people. The primary and secondary characters are ruled by their tragic destinies until almost the very end. This is a unique melodrama worthy of being acclaimed as one of the greatest novels ever written.

****Interest Level:** Grades 11- 12

***Lexile:** 1380

Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes

By Edith Hamilton

Synopsis: Edith Hamilton's Mythology brings to life the Greek, Roman, and Norse myths that are the keystone of Western culture--the stories of gods and heroes that have inspired human creativity from antiquity to the present. We meet the Greek gods of Olympus and Norse gods in Valhalla. We follow the drama of the Trojan War and the wanderings of Odysseus. We hear the tales of Jason and the Golden Fleece, Cupid and Psyche, and mighty King Midas. We discover the origins of the names of the constellations. And we recognize reference points for countless works of art, literature, and cultural inquiry--from Freud's Oedipus complex to Wagner's Ring Cycle of operas to Eugene O'Neill's Mourning Becomes Electra.

****Interest Level:** Grades 9-12

***Lexile:** 1040L

Frankenstein

By Mary Shelley

Synopsis: This novel revolves around the monster creation made by Dr. Frankenstein of body parts taken from corpses. Instead of creating a human, he has indeed created a monster who stops at nothing to find his creator and get revenge for what he did to him. The monster deals with isolation and alienation from a society based on his physical appearance. Frankenstein wants to be good but resorts to being evil because of society's bias.

****Interest Level:** 10-12

***Lexile:** 1040L

1984

By George Orwell

Synopsis: View our feature in George Orwell's *1984*. Written in 1948, *1984* was George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. And while 1984 has come and gone, Orwell's narrative is more timely than ever. *1984* presents a "negative utopia," that is at once a startling and haunting vision of the world so powerful that it is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the power of this novel, its hold on the imagination of entire generations of readers, or the resiliency of its admonitions a legacy that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.

****Interest Level:** 8-12

***Lexile:** 1090