

Welcome to North Reading High School's Summer Reading Program!

All students must read **two** books over the summer and are free to choose their own titles. Chosen books should be appropriate for students' grade and maturity level and should not have been read in a prior grade. Students are free to read fiction, nonfiction, plays, poetry anthologies, or graphic novels. It is encouraged that parents participate in the selection process to ensure students are reading appropriate material. Additionally, students may be able to check out a copy of their book(s) by using the resources provided by the High School Media Center.

If students have questions or need help selecting a book, they should contact their English teacher. All students will be crafting an essay based on one of their summer reading titles in the early part of the 2026-2027 school year using the prompt and rubric below. *Students may take notes to prepare for their essay but there is an expectation that this essay will not be written in advance.* The best essays will use specific examples from the text so plan accordingly. Individual English teachers may assign other projects on the books, as well. AP students and Academic Decathlon participants should read their individually assigned titles available below

Suggestions:

-A book with a female protagonist	--A book that challenges the way you think	-A book written by an author of color
-A book of poetry	-A Pulitzer Prize winner, National Book Award or Booker Prize winner	-A book of essays
-A book that will make you smarter	-A book that "everyone" has read but you	-A book about American politics
-A book with more than 500 pages	-A book with an LGBTQ+ author or protagonist	-A graphic novel
-A book that won a Hugo or Nebula Award	-A book more than 100 years old	-A book about an adventure you'd like to take
-A book that won an Edgar or Dagger Award	-A book about the United States	-A book of popular science
-A book originally written in a different language	-A history of a country that's not the United States	-A book about something you are curious about
-A microhistory	-A book about sports	-A book written by or about an American president
		-A book about space

AP Language students are required to read TWO books over the summer for this course. All students must read *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion* by Jay Heinrichs. The most updated edition of this book is the fourth edition, published in 2020. In addition, you must read **one** of the books from this short list of popular nonfiction:

- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by Jonathan Haidt
- *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee* by Casey Cep
- *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* by Azar Nafisi
- *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann
- *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History (10th Anniversary Edition)* by Elizabeth Kolbert
- *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

- *The Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780* by Rick Atkinson

AP Literature students are required to read a title from the criteria for a book listed above. In addition to this, students must read the **three** books below:

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- *1984* by George Orwell

Academic Decathlon students should read *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro as one of their choice titles.

PLEASE NOTE: These works may contain mature and sensitive themes, situations, and language. Students should consult parents/guardians when making a choice.

Prompt:

What is the main theme of your book? Is this a meaningful message to share with high school readers? (250-500 words)

Rubric:

	Progressing Towards the Standard What could be better? (60%-70%)	Meeting the Standard This is what your teacher is looking for (70%-90%)	Exceeding the Standard How did you go above and beyond? (90%-100%)
Thesis/Argument		Introduces a topic with a thesis statement that presents an argument. The thesis is supported with appropriate evidence	
Evidence and Topic Development		Develops a topic with appropriate and sufficient facts, examples, details, and quotations Arguments are clear and support the thesis	
Purpose and Theme		Demonstrates an understanding of the purpose and theme of the written work as well as the ability to make inferences and draw conclusions from it.	
Style		Develops and maintains a style appropriate to the type and purpose of the text Uses good language, vocabulary, and grammar/mechanics	
Organization/ Transitions		Presents text in a coherent manner that is appropriate to purpose, audience, and style, resulting in the reader's or viewer's engagement and understanding Transitions between sections of the text	



Where can I find books for NRHS Summer Reading 2026?



See what books are available from the NRHS Media Center by exploring the [Media Center online catalog](#) before the end of the school year. You can borrow a few titles to read over the summer. (Search for titles by title, author, or subject.)



[SORA](#) has ebooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines. Connect to the MLS Commonwealth eBook Collection, add the Flint Memorial Library and Boston Public Library to get access to even more content. **Log in with your North Reading School Google account.**



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***Save the email with your new eCard number and PIN to be able to access Boston Public Library online resources.**



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Don't know what to read next? [Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Award nominees for 2026](#)

[The Horn Book 2026 Summer Reading: High School](#)

If you are interested, you can submit this sheet to the NRHS library at the start of the school year.

Title: _____

Author: _____ Date Read: _____

Your rating:      What did you like or not like about this book?

How did you access this book?:

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Title: _____

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