

North High School Summer Reading

Grade 12

Students who are lifelong readers become more successful in their academic classes as well as in their careers after graduation. People who read well also write better, have larger vocabularies, score higher on tests, and communicate more effectively. In order to help promote a joy of reading, each student at North High will choose one book from the following list: books are organized by genre; **we suggest parents and students together select thoughtfully and carefully from the list.** Books that have CDE listed after them are on the California Department of Education suggested reading list. Students are required to complete an essay for their chosen book at any point over the summer. Copies of this list are available on the North High School website or in the school office. Students in an AP class will be contacted separately about their specific assignment(s).

Coming of Age/ Peer Pressure/ Relationships

1. *Dark Angel*, Davis Klass. A family has a dark secret that is about to reemerge.
2. *Dreamland*, Sarah Dessen. This book explores the consequences of having an abusive boyfriend.
3. *Just Listen*, Sarah Dessen. An incident at a high school party has far-reaching consequences.
4. *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful To You*, Peter Cameron. James, 18, is trying to find his way in the world after high school graduation. For mature readers.
5. *Upstate*, Kalisha Buckhanon. Two lovers are separated by a horrendous crime.
6. *Looking for Alaska*, John Green. Miles, 16, is an outcast sent to boarding school.
7. *An Abundance of Katherines*, John Green. Letting expectations go and allowing love in are at the heart of Colin's hilarious quest to find his missing piece and avenge dumppees everywhere.
8. *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*, Mohsin Hamid. The protagonist begins as a poor boy who begins a quest for wealth and love as he moves to the city and enters the bottled water business.

Fantasy/Science Fiction/Vampire

1. The Gemma Doyle Trilogy, Libba Bray. Gemma, who has visions, travels to other worlds.
2. Den of Shadows series, Amelia Atwater-Rhodes. The adventures of a 300-year-old night stalker.
3. *The Burning Dark*, Adam Christopher. After saving a planet, Captain Abraham Idaho Cleveland finds himself relegated to one of the most remote backwaters in Fleetspace.
4. *Hyde*, Daniel Levine. A reimagining of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* from the monster's perspective.

Memoir and Nonfiction

1. *The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls. Another account of growing up in an eccentric, dysfunctional family.
2. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, Ishmael Beah. A twelve-year-old's account of surviving civil war in Sierra Leone.
3. *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science*, John Fleischman. The incredible story of a recovery from severe trauma and what it taught the scientific community.
4. *No Easy Answers: The Truth Behind Death at Columbine*, Brooks Brown and Rob Merritt. An eyewitness account of the Columbine shooting told from the shooter's best friend.

Mystery

1. *Micro*, Michael Crichton. A group of students is lured to Hawaii to work for a mysterious biotech company, only to find themselves cast into the rainforest with nothing to protect them.
2. *The Lost Symbol*, Dan Brown. The story weaves a breathtaking trail through the hidden artwork, chambers, tunnels, and temples of our nation's capital.

Classics

1. *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte. The story follows the life of Heathcliff from his rise in his adopted family to his fall to the status of a servant, running away when the young woman he loves decides to marry another. He returns later, rich and educated and sets about gaining his revenge. (CDE)
2. *Taming of the Shrew*, William Shakespeare. The courtship of Petruchio, and Katherina, the headstrong shrew. (CDE)
3. *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte. The love story of Jane Eyre, a plain yet spirited governess, and her arrogant, brooding Mr. Rochester. (CDE)