

North High School Summer Reading

Grade 9

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 honors classes will be contacted separately about their specific assignment.

Coming of Age/ Peer Pressure/ Relationships

1. *Evolution, Me, and Other Freaks of Nature*, Robin Brande. Mena knew her first day of high school would be bad, but this bad? Examines the evolution debate in high school.
2. *Madapple*, Christina Meldrum. A girl raised in isolation must learn to cope with the world after her mother dies.
Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac, Gabrielle Zevin. A teenager loses her memory after a bad fall.
3. *The Rules of Survival*, Nancy Werlin. The story of three siblings struggling to overcome child abuse. (CDE)
4. *Sleeping Freshman Never Lie*, Davis Lubar. Scott Hudson hopes to survive his freshman year.
5. *Someone Like You*, Sarah Dessen. Two best friends lean on each other when a calamity occurs.
6. *A Step from Heaven*, An Na. The trials and tribulations of a Korean family's journey to America.
7. *The Skin I'm In*, Sharon Flake. An adolescent navigates an inner-city school. (CDE)

Fantasy/Science Fiction/ Vampire

1. The Alfred Kropp series, Rick Yancey. Fifteen year old Alfred has series of adventures after finding a magic sword.
2. *House of the Scorpion*, Nancy Farmer. In the future, a scientist brings a number of clones to life. (CDE)
3. *Life as We Knew It*, Susan Beth Pfeffer. A meteor collides with the moon, with disastrous results for Earthlings.
4. *Mother's Helper*, A. Bates. A most unusual babysitting experience.
5. *Rash*, Pete Hautman. Life in 2076 is not easy.
6. *Remember Me*, Christopher Pike. Shari is dead, and she is determined to find out who killed her.
7. *Walk of The Spirits*, Richie Tankersley Cusick. Seventeen-year-old Miranda hears voices at night.

Memoir and Nonfiction

1. *Kick me: Adventures in Adolescence*, Paul Feig. A series of stories about the rigors of high school survival.
2. *True Notebooks*, Mark Salzman. The author tries to reach convicts through the formation of a writing group. (CDE)
3. *Young Men and Fire*, Norman Maclean. The courageous story of Forest Service smokejumpers.

Sports

1. *Ball Don't Lie*, Matt De La Pena. Sticky, 17, is determined to make it out of the neighborhood through basketball.
2. *Crackback*, John Coy. The trials and tribulations of teenage life, woven through the lens of a high school football team.
3. *Knights of the Hill Country*, Tim Tharp. Readers who liked Friday Night Lights will like this football drama.

Mystery

1. *Fake ID*, Walter Sorrells. Chase, 16, only has six days to figure out why his mother disappeared.

Classics

1. *Bless Me, Ultima*, Rudolph Anaya. A young boy tells the story of his coming-of-age with the guidance of his *curandera*, mentor, and protector, Ultima. (CDE)
2. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Baroness Emmuska Orczy. The fantastic adventure story of a shadowy Englishman who rescues French aristocrats at the time of the French Revolution.
3. *Much Ado about Nothing*, William Shakespeare. A comedy about two pairs of lovers, Benedick and Beatrice, and Claudio and Hero—two couples very different in demonstrating their love for one another. (CDE)