

June 2021

Dear Parents and Students:

Below you will find the list of summer reading books for students enrolled at NYA for the 2021-2022 school year. Assignments are listed beneath the grade a student will be entering in September. Additionally, please take the time to review the following guidelines for summer reading.

The English Department strongly encourages students to purchase new copies of all paperback books, both those used for summer reading and those used in the syllabus. A book that has been heavily marked up by a sibling or another NYA student creates a disadvantage for a student; if notes already are written in the margins, it may prevent the student from reading actively and learning the material on his or her own. Also, it is important for students to try to obtain the edition specified by teachers. A student with a different edition (and, thus, different page numbers) may have a difficult time following what the teacher and other students are discussing. All books on the summer list have an ISBN number that identifies the correct edition. Summer reading books may be purchased at area bookstores or ordered online.

Students should complete their assigned summer reading in the weeks BEFORE classes begin, as they form the basis of discussion and writing assignments in the first few weeks of class. Many students prefer to begin their outside reading in the month of August, so that the material is fresh in their minds for discussion. That is certainly fine, but the department advises against “cramming” through the reading during the last weekend before school begins. For those students who wish to complete their reading assignments earlier in the summer, a quick review of the material before school starts is often a good idea. We also encourage students (particularly those in the Upper School) to annotate their books or use sticky notes while they are reading to highlight important parts and to help them to retain and recall information. **Please note:** Reading an on-line summary or watching a film in lieu of reading the book is considered academic dishonesty and may result in consequences in accordance with the Parent-Student Handbook.

In addition to completing assigned summer reading assignments, students in all grades should continue to read for pleasure throughout the summer (though we hope the required reading choices are pleasurable as well!). By the time a student is a junior or senior, time spent reading proves to be far more valuable than time spent frantically cramming SAT vocabulary lists. This reading does not have to be “great” literature. “Beach reads” are absolutely fine—it’s the exposure to pages and words that counts!

Have a great summer and we hope you enjoy your reading!

The NYA English Department

## 2021 ENGLISH SUMMER READING

### GRADE 5 (1 book + 1 optional)

- **Choose One:** Chris Grabenstein. *The Island of Dr. Libris*. Yearling. ISBN-10: 0385388454 **OR** Chris Grabenstein. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library*. Yearling. ISBN-10: 0307931471
- Optional (but encouraged): any other book of your choice

### GRADE 6 (2 books)

- Sharon Draper. *Out of My Mind*. Atheneum. ISBN-10: 1416971718
- Jason Reynolds. *Ghost*. Atheneum. ISBN-10: 1481450158

**GRADE 7 (2 books)**

- John Boyne. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. David Fickling Books: ISBN-10: 0385751532
- Erin Entrada Kelly. *Hello, Universe*. Greenwillow Books. ISBN-13: 978-0062414168

**GRADE 8 (2 books)**

- Jason Reynolds. *Look Both Ways*. Atheneum. ISBN-10: 148143828X
- Jacqueline Woodson. *Harbor Me*. Puffin Books. ISBN-10: 0525515143

**GRADE 9 (2 books)**

- Harper Lee. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Harper Perennial. ISBN-10: 0060935464
- Bryan Stevenson. *Just Mercy* (Adapted Version). Ember. ISBN-10: 0525580069  
**(Important: Students should read *To Kill a Mockingbird* before *Just Mercy*!)**

NOTE: The version of *Just Mercy* listed above is the “Adapted for Young Adult Readers” edition. Students who are interested in reading the original edition, which covers the same material but uses slightly more advanced language, are welcome to do so. Here is the ISBN-10 for the original edition: 9780812984965.

**GRADE 10 (2 books)**

- Heidi Durrow. *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky*. Algonquin. ISBN-10: 1616200154
- Trevor Noah. *Born a Crime*. One World: ISBN-10: 0399588191

**GRADE 11****Non-AP sections (2 books):**

- Charles Portis. *True Grit*. The Overlook Press. ISBN-10: 159020459X
- Ron Suskind. *A Hope in the Unseen*. Broadway Books. ISBN-10: 0767901266

**AP Language and Composition (3 books minimum):**

- William Deresiewicz. *Excellent Sheep*. Free Press. ISBN-10: 1476702721
- Malcolm Gladwell. *Outliers*. Back Bay Books. ISBN-10: 0316017930
- **at least one book from the [AP 11 nonfiction reading list \(available on the NYA website\)](#)**

**GRADE 12****Non-AP sections (2 books):**

- James McBride. *The Color of Water*. Riverhead Books. ISBN-10: 159448192X
- Daniel Wallace. *Big Fish*. Algonquin. ISBN-10: 1616201649

**AP Literature and Composition (3 books):**

- Dave Eggers. *The Circle*. Vintage. ISBN-10: 0345807294
- Aldous Huxley. *Brave New World*. Harper Perennial. ISBN-10: 0060850523
- George Orwell. *1984*. Signet Classic. ISBN-13: 9780451524935