

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Summer Reading Overview

At each grade level students will select one book to read from the lists below. They will use the attached note taking form to document their reading. Upon their return to school, students will complete a project or essay as assigned by their English Teacher.

In addition, technical programs will assign students at each grade level an article to read from Newsela. Students will be required to complete the quiz after reading the article in order to receive credit. Students sign in at <https://newsela.com/> to locate their articles.

Students entering senior year enjoyed a much simplified college application process last fall because they completed summer reading essay that fit most college applications. As a result, we are continuing to require a summer essay from incoming grade 12 students.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Summer Reading List: Grade 9

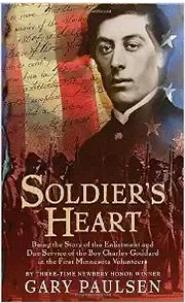
All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and/or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

Soldier's Heart - Gary Paulsen

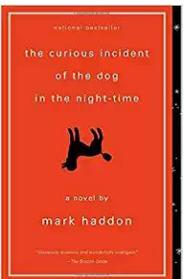
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime - Mark Haddon

Norse Mythology - Neil Gaiman

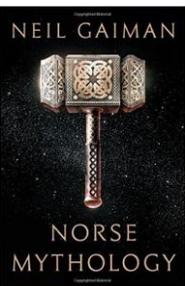
BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



Soldier's Heart - *Gary Paulsen* Based on the life of a real boy, it tells the story of Charley Goddard, who lies his way into the Union Army at the age of 15. Charley has never been anyplace beyond Winona, Minnesota, and thinks war would be a great adventure. And it is--at first--as his regiment marches off through cheering crowds and pretty, flag-waving girls. But then comes the battle. Charley screams, "Make it stop now!" disbelieving that anything so horrible could be real. Paulsen is unsparing in the details of what actually happens on the battlefield: the living men suddenly blown into pieces, the agony and fear, the noise and terror, the stinking corpses. After many battles, Charley is wounded and sent home an old man before he is 20, his will to live destroyed by combat fatigue--leaving him with a "soldier's heart."



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime - *Mark Haddon* Christopher Boone is a mathematically-gifted autistic teenager who one night discovers the dead body of Wellington, the large poodle of his neighbor Mrs. Shears. After a misunderstanding with the police that gets him arrested, Christopher decides to solve the mystery of who killed Wellington despite his father's order to stay out of other people's business. Christopher's mother died of a heart attack two years earlier, leaving Ed the sole caregiver of his son. Christopher decides to write about this mystery for an assignment at school; the book he writes is the one we read as the novel.



Norse Mythology - *Neil Gaiman* In Norse Mythology, Gaiman stays true to the myths in envisioning the major Norse pantheon: Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki—son of a giant—blood brother to Odin and a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator. Gaiman fashions these primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds and delves into the exploits of deities, dwarfs, and giants. Once, when Thor's hammer is stolen, Thor must disguise himself as a woman—difficult with his beard and huge appetite—to steal it back. More poignant is the tale in which the blood of Kvasir—the most sagacious of gods—is turned into a mead that infuses drinkers with poetry. The work culminates in Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods and rebirth of a new time and people.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Summer Reading List: Grade 10

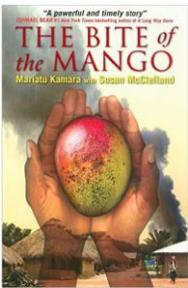
All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

The Bite of the Mango - Mariatu Kamara with Susan McClelland (non-fiction)

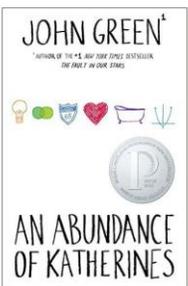
An Abundance of Katherines - John Green

Catch that Pass - Matt Christopher

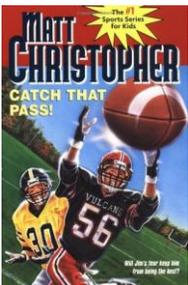
BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



The Bite of the Mango - Mariatu Kamara with Susan McClelland (non-fiction) As a child in a small rural village in Sierra Leone, Mariatu Kamara lived peacefully surrounded by family and friends. Rumors of rebel attacks were no more than a distant worry. But when 12-year-old Mariatu set out for a neighboring village, she never arrived. Heavily armed rebel soldiers, many no older than children themselves, attacked and tortured Mariatu. During this brutal act of senseless violence they cut off both her hands. Stumbling through the countryside, Mariatu miraculously survived. The sweet taste of a mango, her first food after the attack, reaffirmed her desire to live, but the challenge of clutching the fruit in her bloodied arms reinforced the grim new reality that stood before her. With no parents or living adult to support her and living in a refugee camp, she turned to begging in the streets of Freetown. As told to her by Mariatu, journalist Susan McClelland has written the heartbreaking true story of the brutal attack, its aftermath and Mariatu's eventual arrival in Toronto where she began to pull together the pieces of her broken life with courage, astonishing resilience and hope.



An Abundance of Katherines - John Green When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has ten thousand dollars in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight, Judge Judy-loving best friend riding shotgun—but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge Dumpees everywhere, and finally win him the girl. Love, friendship, and a dead Austro-Hungarian archduke add up to surprising and heart-changing conclusions in this ingeniously layered comic novel about reinventing oneself.



Catch that Pass - Matt Christopher Only one thing keeps Jim from being the best linebacker in the team - his fear of getting tackled. But his friend Chuckie knows Jim isn't a coward. With Chuckie's special courage as an example, can Jim find the strength to face his fears head-on?

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Summer Reading List: Grade 11

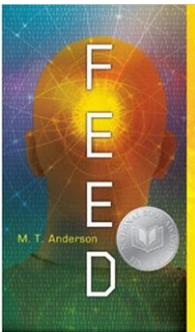
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Feed - M.T Anderson

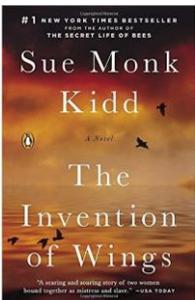
The Invention of Wings - Sue Monk Kidd

Looking for Alaska - John Green

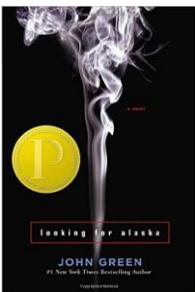
BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



Feed - M.T Anderson For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. Following in the footsteps of George Orwell, Anthony Burgess, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr., M. T. Anderson has created a not-so-brave new world — and a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now.



Invention of Wings - Sue Monk Kidd Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world. Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke’s daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd’s sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah’s eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other’s destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.



Looking for Alaska - John Green First drink; First prank; First friend; First girl; Last words Miles "Pudge" Halter is abandoning his safe-okay, boring-life. Fascinated by the last words of famous people, Pudge leaves for boarding school to seek what a dying Rabelais called the "Great Perhaps." Pudge becomes encircled by friends whose lives are everything but safe and boring. Their nucleus is razor-sharp, sexy, and self-destructive Alaska, who has perfected the arts of pranking and evading school rules. Pudge falls impossibly in love. When tragedy strikes the close-knit group, it is only in coming face-to-face with death that Pudge discovers the value of living and loving unconditionally. John Green's stunning debut marks the arrival of a stand-out new voice in young adult fiction.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Summer Reading List: Grade 11 Advanced Placement

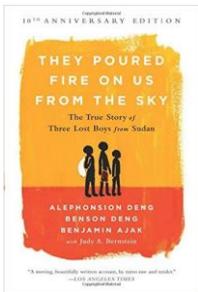
All students must read ONE book from the list below. Students will take notes on the book - using the attached note taking form is expected. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky - Benson Dong, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak

Growing Up Latina - edited by Harold Augenbraum and Ilan Stavans

I Tell You Now - edited by Brian Swann and Harold Krupat

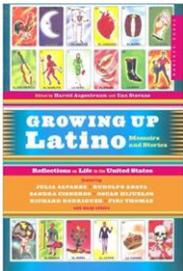
BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky - *Benson Dong, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak*

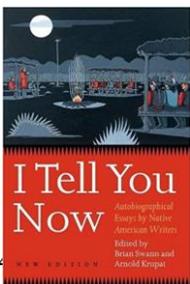
Between 1987 and 1989, Alepho, Benjamin, and Benson, like tens of thousands of young boys, took flight from the massacres of Sudan's civil war. They became known as the Lost Boys. With little more than the clothes on their backs, sometimes not even that, they streamed out over Sudan in search of refuge. Their journey led them first to Ethiopia and then, driven back into Sudan, toward Kenya. They walked nearly one thousand miles, sustained only by the sheer will to live. *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky* is the three boys' account of that unimaginable journey. With the candor and the purity of their child's-eye-vision, Alephonsion, Benjamin, and Benson recall by turns: how they endured the hunger and strength-sapping illnesses—dysentery, malaria, and yellow fever; how they dodged the life-threatening predators—lions, snakes, crocodiles and soldiers alike—that dogged their footsteps; and

how they grappled with a war that threatened continually to overwhelm them. Their story is a lyrical, captivating, timeless portrait of a childhood hurled into wartime and how they had the good fortune and belief in themselves to survive.



Growing Up Latina - *edited by Harold Augenbraum and Ilan Stavans* *Growing Up Latina* From the mean streets of the barrio to the house on Mango Street, from the Mambo Kings to the Garcia Girls, the authors who contribute to this volume transport us across geographies and through cultures in an attempt to articulate the joys, struggles, defeats, and triumphs of the Latino experience in the United States. *Growing Up Latino* offers, for the first time, a comprehensive collection of classic and recent Latino writing in English, converging in sometimes shocking, often funny, and always stirring memoirs and stories. Religion, sex, love, language, and family are some of the topics explored in this compelling anthology of fiction and nonfiction. With its laughter and tears, its beauty and power, it is a thoroughly

enjoyable book and an unforgettable contribution to the Latino tradition of letters. This diverse collection shatters the myth of a singular U.S.- Latino experience, proving the existence of a rich tradition whose writers, active for more than forty years, are only now being recognized by a rapidly growing audience.



I Tell You Now - *edited by Brian Swann and Harold Krupat* *I Tell You Now* is an anthology of autobiographical accounts by eighteen notable Native writers of different ages, tribes, and areas. This second edition features a new introduction by the editors and updated biographical sketches for each writer.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Summer Reading List: Grade 12

All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

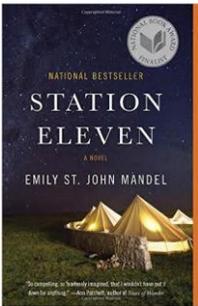
Additionally, all incoming grade 12 students are expected to complete the personal essay - see the **Grade 12 Personal Essay Assignment** below for more details.

Station Eleven - Emily St. John Mandel

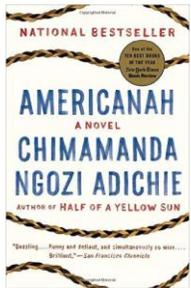
Americanah - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Living - Matt de la Pena

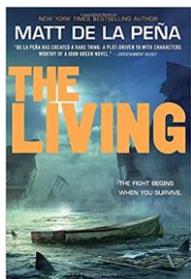
BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



Station Eleven - Emily St. John Mandel Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of King Lear. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band's existence. And as the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed.



Americanah - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie The bestselling novel—a love story of race and identity—from the award-winning author of *We Should All Be Feminists* and *Dear Ijeawele*. Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.



The Living - Matt de la Peña Shy takes the summer job to make some money. A few months on a luxury cruise liner--how bad can it be? Bikinis, free food, maybe even a girl or two . . . every cruise has a fresh crop of passengers, after all. He'll rake in the tips and be able to help his mom and sister out with the bills. But then, an earthquake more massive than any ever recorded hits California and Shy's life is changed forever. The earthquake is only the beginning. Twenty-four hours and a catastrophic chain of events later, Shy is lost at sea, fighting to survive--and stuck with her. She's blond and she's rich, and never in her life would she have dreamed she'd be adrift in the Pacific Ocean, surrounded by death and completely dependent on a guy like Shy. And Shy hasn't even faced the worst yet.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Summer Reading List: Grade 12 Advanced Placement

All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

Antigone - Sophocles

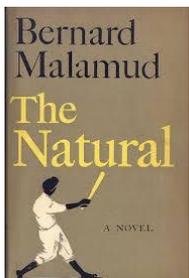
The Natural - Bernard Malamud

The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:

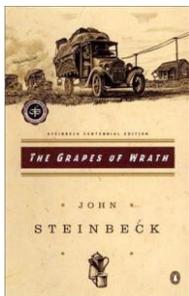


Antigone - *Sophocles* The curse placed on Oedipus lingers and haunts a younger generation in this new and brilliant translation of Sophocles' classic drama. The daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta, Antigone is an unconventional heroine who pits her beliefs against the King of Thebes in a bloody test of 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. Antigone raises issues of law and morality that are just as relevant today as they were more than two thousand years ago. Whether this is your first reading or your twentieth, Antigone will move you as few pieces of literature can. To make this quintessential Greek drama more accessible to the modern reader, the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Classics edition of *Antigone* includes a glossary of difficult terms, a list of vocabulary words, and convenient sidebar notes.



The Natural - *Bernard Malamud* Bernard Malamud's first novel, published in 1952, is also the first—and some would say still the best—novel ever written about baseball. In it Malamud, usually appreciated for his unerring portrayals of postwar Jewish life, took on very different material—the story of a superbly gifted "natural" at play in the fields of the old daylight baseball era—and invested it with the hardscrabble poetry, at once grand and altogether believable, that runs through all his best work. Four decades later, Alfred Kazin's comment still holds true: "Malamud has done something which—now that he has done it!—looks as if we have been waiting for it all our lives. He has really raised the whole passion and craziness and fanaticism of baseball as a popular spectacle to its ordained

place in mythology."



The Grapes of Wrath - *John Steinbeck* Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity. A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America. At once a naturalistic epic, captivity narrative, road novel, and transcendental gospel, Steinbeck's powerful landmark novel is perhaps the most American of American Classics.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Grade 12 Personal Essay Assignment

All students entering Grade 12 will **choose one** of the following essay prompts, and respond in a clear, engaging, well organised (multi-paragraph) essay of 450-650 words. Essays should answer the prompt completely, provide vivid details of your personal story, and demonstrate effective control of language.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their personal essay would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others

Rubric

Organization and Focus (clear main ideas and supporting details, stays on topic)

1 2 3 4 5

Originality (vivid details, fresh word choice, creativity, risk-taking)

1 2 3 4 5

Writer's Voice (consistent throughout, engaging, conveys individual personality)

1 2 3 4 5

Freedom from Error (spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage)

1 2 3 4 5

Overall success (interesting topic clearly developed; “works”)

1 2 3 4 5

Score x 4 = Final Grade _____

Outlining Your Narrative

Introduction:

Begin your paper with a “ hook ” that catches the reader’s attention and set the scene . Where is the event set? What time of year? How old were you when this happened?	
State your thesis : what you learned, or how the event is significant to you.	

Body paragraphs: write three significant moments from the beginning, middle, and end of the event.

Para. 1: Beginning Action	Topic sentence: Detail 1: Detail 2: Detail 3:	Note: Don’t forget to “ Show, Don’t Tell ”: List sounds, smells, tastes, and textures that you remember. Your experience is your “evidence”. Use transition words to mark the passage of time .
Para 2: Middle Action	Topic sentence: Detail 1: Detail 2: Detail 3:	
Para 3: End Action	Topic sentence: Detail 1: Detail 2: Detail 3:	

Conclusion:

Analyze and reflect on the actions of the story, including how the events are significant to you.	
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Writing Strategies to Consider

First Person vs. Third Person Narratives are a mode of writing in which writers often use first person perspective (“I saw”, “I did”). Check with your instructor to determine whether you can use “I” when telling your story.

**Verb Tense: Reporting vs. Reflecting* The events of most narratives are told in past tense: “As I hiked, I felt the warm sun on my back.” Use present tense when reflection on the events: “Now I know how unprepared I was”. Notice the change in tense in this sentences as the writer reflects on the past event, from the present.

Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Summer Reading Note Taking Form

Book Title: _____

Book Author: _____

Name of Protagonist (main character): _____

List three adjectives which describe the main character:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

List and describe other important characters below:

Identify the main setting: _____

Identify and describe other important settings below:

Identify and describe the protagonist's primary conflict below:

Identify the main theme of the book below:

Give 2 examples from the story which identify the theme:

4/5/18

List and describe five key events in the book.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.