Dear Northwest ISD High School Parents/ Guardians,

In an effort to keep our NISD students engaged in literacy throughout the summer, students are expected to read one or more novels from the following district approved grade level lists.

This novel should be read in its entirety before school starts. This will ensure that the student is well-prepared to participate in classroom discussions and assignments over their chosen book, and is ready to begin the year with the rigor and challenges of our district curriculum.

Since the student will be self-selecting a text from the list for him/herself, if the student or parent finds the material in one book too mature, the student should choose another book on their grade level list.

- GT and Pre-AP students in grades 6-10 are expected to read at least one novel in the GT/Pre-AP column from their grade level list. After at least one title is read from this list, then GT/Pre-AP students may read other titles from either the GT/Pre-AP list OR from the On-Level list.

- On-Level students are expected to read at least one novel in the On-Level column from their grade level list. After at least one title is read from this list, then On-Level students may read other titles from either the On-Level list OR from the GT/Pre-AP grade level list.

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<tr>
<th>GT/Pre-AP/AP</th>
<th>On-Level</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>English I</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Adoration of Jenna Fox</em> by Mary E. Pearson</td>
<td><em>The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World’s Most Notorious Nazi</em> by Neal Bascomb</td>
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<td><em>Ender’s Game</em> by Orson Scott Card</td>
<td><em>Red Queen</em> by Victoria Aveyard</td>
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<td><em>Lord of the Flies</em> by William Golding</td>
<td><em>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</em> by Sean Covey</td>
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<td><em>Rebecca</em> by Daphne Du Maurier</td>
<td><em>To Kill a Mockingbird</em> by Harper Lee</td>
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<td><em>The Secret Life of Bees</em> by Sue Monk Kidd</td>
<td><em>When Zachary Beaver Came to Town</em> by Kimberly Willis Holt</td>
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<td><strong>English II</strong></td>
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<td><em>The Chosen</em> by Chaim Potok</td>
<td><em>The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century</em> by Sarah Miller</td>
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<td><em>The Crucible</em> by Arthur Miller</td>
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**Story Summaries**

### English I Pre-AP/GT

**The Adoration of Jenna Fox, Mary E. Pearson (Dystopian/ Science Fiction)**

Who is Jenna Fox? Seventeen-year-old Jenna has been told that is her name. She has just awoken from a coma, they tell her, and she is still recovering from a terrible accident in which she was involved a year ago. Her parents show her home movies of her life, her memories, but she has no recollection. Is she really the same girl she sees on the screen? Little by little, Jenna begins to remember. But along with the memories come questions—questions no one wants to answer for her. What really happened after the accident? In this fascinating novel, acclaimed author Mary E. Pearson presents an unforgettable look at one human life and a glimpse into a possible future that may be closer than we think. Set in a near future America, it takes readers on an unforgettable journey through questions of bio-medical ethics, the nature of humanity, and helps readers ponder the idea of “Just because we can, doesn’t mean we should, or should we?”

**Ender’s Game, Orson Scott Card (Science Fiction)**

Andrew “Ender” Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin is six years old when it begins. He will grow up fast. But Ender is not the only result of the experiment. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway almost as long. Hiding his youth and identity behind the anonymity of the computer networks, Ender begins working to shape the destiny of Earth—an Earth that has no future at all if he fails.

**Lord of the Flies, William Golding (Fiction/ Adventure/ Classic)**

William Golding’s compelling story about a group of very ordinary young boys stranded on a coral island has become a modern classic. At first, it seems as though it’s all going to be great fun; but the fun before long becomes furious, and life on the island turns into a nightmare of panic, survival, death. As ordinary standards of behavior collapse, the whole world the boys know collapses with them—the world of cricket, homework, and adventure stories—and another world is revealed beneath, primitive, and terrible.

**Rebecca, Daphne Du Maurier (Gothic Mystery)**

“Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again . . .”

The novel begins in Monte Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady’s maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives—presenting her with a lingering evil that threatens to destroy their marriage from beyond the grave.

**The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd (Historical Fiction)**

Set in South Carolina in 1964, The Secret Life of Bees tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily’s fierce-hearted black “stand-in mother,” Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother’s past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

### English I On-Level

**The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World’s Most Notorious Nazi, Neal Beacom (Non- Fiction)**

A thrilling spy mission, a moving Holocaust story, and a first-class work of narrative nonfiction. In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis’ Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century’s most important trials—one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination. THE NAZI HUNTERS is the thrilling and fascinating story of what happened between these two events. Survivor Simon Wiesenthal opened Eichmann’s case; a blind Argentinean and his teenage daughter provided crucial information. Finally, the Israeli spies—many of whom lost family in the Holocaust—embarked on their daring mission, recounted here in full. THE NAZI HUNTERS is a can’t-miss work of narrative nonfiction that young adult readers will
and subsequent trial (and acquittal) comes from sensationalized newspaper reports; as Miller sorts fact from fiction, and as a legal battle
mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden, daughter of Andrew and stepdaughter of Abby. Most of what is known about Lizzie’s arrest
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middle school and above readers, author Sarah Miller takes readers along non-fiction story line that actually reads more like a thriller, as
her father forty-one.” But how many readers actually know the real story behind this saying? In a linear narrative, appropriate for upper
English II On-Level

The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century,
Sarah Miller (Non-Fiction, Historical, Suspense/Thriller)
Many of us have heard the saying, “Lizzie Borden took an axe, gave her mother forty whacks. When she saw what she had done, she gave
her father forty-one.” But how many readers actually know the real story behind this saying? In a linear narrative, appropriate for upper
middle school and above readers, author Sarah Miller takes readers along non-fiction story line that actually reads more like a thriller, as
she investigates a brutal crime: the August 4, 1892, murders of wealthy and prominent Andrew and Abby Borden. The accused? Mild-
mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden, daughter of Andrew and stepdaughter of Abby. Most of what is known about Lizzie’s arrest
and subsequent trial (and acquittal) comes from sensationalized newspaper reports; as Miller sorts fact from fiction, and as a legal battle
gets under way, a portrait of a woman and a town emerges.

**The Crossover, Kwame Alexander (Novel in Verse, Poetry)**

“With a bolt of lightning on my kicks... The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I’m delivering,” announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he’s got mad beats, too, that tell his family’s story in verse, in this fast and furious middle novel of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story’s heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

**The Hound of the Baskervilles, Arthur Conan Doyle (Mystery, Adventure, Classic)**

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are faced with their most terrifying case yet. The legend of the devil-beast that haunts the moors around the Baskerville family’s home warns the descendants of that ancient clan never to venture out in those dark hours when the power of evil is exalted. Now, the most recent Baskerville, Sir Charles, is dead and the footprints of a giant hound have been found near his body. Will the new heir meet the same fate?

**Swallowing Stones, Joyce McDonald (Realistic Fiction)**

It begins with a free and joyful act—but from then on, Michael finds it impossible even to remember what it felt like to be free and joyful. When he fires his new rifle into the air on his seventeenth birthday, he never imagines that the bullet will end up killing someone. But a mile away, a man is killed by that bullet as he innocently repairs his roof. And Michael keeps desperately silent while he watches his world crumble. Meanwhile Jenna, the dead man’s daughter, copes with desperation of her own. Through her grief, she tries to understand why she no longer feels comfortable with her boyfriend and why a near stranger named Michael keeps appearing in her dreams. Suspenseful and powerfully moving, this is the unforgettable story of an accidental crime and its haunting web of repercussions.

**Unwind, Neal Shusterman (Dystopian)**

Legislation decides that life is protected from birth until age 13. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, parents can have their child “unwound,” whereby all of the child’s organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn’t technically end. Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Risa, a ward of the state, is not enough to be kept alive. And Lev is a tithe, a child conceived and raised to be unwound. Together, they may have a chance to escape and to survive.

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**English III Advanced Placement Language and Composition**

***AP English III Language students are to choose one of the following nonfiction titles listed after these summary pages of this document. This list is compiled by the American Library Association and College Board for college-bound high school students.***

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**English III On-Level**

**Bleachers, John Grisham (Realistic Fiction)**

High school All-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home toMessina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty. As Coach Rake’s boys’ sit in the bleachers waiting for the dimming field lights to signal his passing, they replay the old glories, and try to decide once and for all whether they love Eddie Rake - or hate him. For Neely Crenshaw, still struggling to come to terms with his explosive relationship with the Coach, his dreams of a great career in the NFL, and the choices he made as a young man, the stakes could not be higher.

**The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Daniel James Brown (Non-Fiction)**

Daniel James Brown’s robust book tells the story of the University of Washington’s 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936. The emotional heart of the story lies with one rower, Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not for glory, but to regain his shattered self-regard and to find a place he can call home. The crew is assembled by an enigmatic coach and mentored by a visionary, eccentric British boat builder, but it is their trust in each other that makes them a victorious team. They remind the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together—a perfect melding of commitment, determination, and optimism. Drawing on the boys’ own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, The Boys in the Boat is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant.

**The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne (Classic, Fictional Prose)**

Set in the harsh Puritan community of seventeenth-century Boston, this tale of an adulterous entanglement that results in an illegitimate birth reveals Nathaniel Hawthorne’s concerns with the tension between the public and the private selves. Publicly disgraced and ostracized, Hester Prynne draws on her inner strength and certainty of spirit to emerge as the first true heroine of American fiction. Arthur Dimmesdale, trapped by the rules of society, stands as a classic study of a self-divided.
**The Things They Carried,** Tim O’Brein (Short Stories, Memoirs)

They carried malaria tablets, love letters, 28-pound mine detectors, illustrated bibles, each other. And if they made it home alive, they carried unrelenting images of a nightmarish war that history is only beginning to absorb. Since its first publication, The Things They Carried has become an unparalleled Vietnam testament, a classic work of American literature, and a profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul.

**Trafficked,** Kim Purcell (Realistic Fiction)

A 17-year-old Moldovan girl whose parents have been killed is brought to the United States to work as a slave for a family in Los Angeles. Hannah believes she’s being brought from Moldova to Los Angeles to become a nanny for a Russian family. But her American dream quickly spirals into a nightmare. The Platonovs force Hannah to work sixteen-hour days, won’t let her leave the house, and seem to have a lot of secrets—from Hannah and from each other. Stranded in a foreign land with false documents, no money, and nobody who can help her, Hannah must find a way to save herself from her new status as a modern-day slave or risk losing the one thing she has left: her life.

**English IV Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines,* Thomas C. Foster (Non-Fiction)

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface -- a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character -- and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you. In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

***In addition, during the first six weeks, AP English IV Literature students will choose to work with a text of literary merit. Students will have already read several works of literary merit throughout high school, and any of those would be a great choice. If a student is wanting to read something new this summer, works of literary merit that have been listed numerous times on the AP exam are included on the last page of this document.***

**English IV On-Level**

*The Heart of Darkness,* Joseph Conrad (Literary Fiction, Adventure, Suspense)

Dark allegory describes the narrator’s journey up the Congo River and his meeting with, and fascination by, Mr. Kurtz, a mysterious personage who dominates the unruly inhabitants of the region. Masterly blend of adventure, character development, psychological penetration. Considered by many Conrad’s finest, most enigmatic story.

*Ivanhoe,* Sir Walter Scott (Classic, Adventure, Historical Fiction)

Set at the time of the Norman Conquest, Ivanhoe returns from the Crusades to claim his inheritance and the love of Rowena and becomes involved in the struggle between Richard Coeur de Lion and his Norman brother John. The gripping narrative is structured by a series of conflicts: Saxon versus Norman, Christian versus Jew, men versus women, played out against Scott’s unflinching moral realism.

**1984,** George Orwell (Classic, Political Fiction, Social Science Fiction/ Dystopian)

The year 1984 has come and gone, but George Orwell’s prophetic, nightmarish vision in 1949 of the world we were becoming is timelier than ever. 1984 is still the great modern classic of “negative utopia” - a startlingly original and haunting novel that creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing, from the first sentence to the last four words. No one can deny the novel’s hold on the imaginations of whole generations, or the power of its admonitions - a power that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.

**The Once and Future King,** T.H. White (Fantasy)

Once upon a time, a young boy called “Wart” was tutored by a magician named Merlyn in preparation for a future he couldn’t possibly imagine. A future in which he would ally himself with the greatest knights, love a legendary queen and unite a country dedicated to chivalrous values. A future that would see him crowned and known for all time as Arthur, King of the Britons. During Arthur’s reign, the kingdom of Camelot was founded to cast enlightenment on the Dark Ages, while the knights of the Round Table embarked on many a noble quest. But Merlyn foresaw the treachery that awaited his liege: the forbidden love between Queen Guinevere and Lancelot, the wicked plots of Arthur’s half-sister Morgause, and the hatred she fostered in Mordred that would bring an end to the king’s dreams for Britain—and to the king himself.

**English III Advanced Placement Language and Composition**

***AP English III Language students are to choose one of the following nonfiction titles listed after these summary pages of this document. This list is compiled by the American Library Association and College Board for college-bound high school students.***

Amazon.com, Goodreads.com, or BN.com can provide summaries and reviews of the books to help you decide.
During the first six weeks of the school year, AP English III students will be required to write an essay over the issues that are discussed, and the message the author is attempting to communicate.

The books represent a wide array of topics and subjects. Try to find a book that really interests you. If you are particularly interested in chemistry or physics, a book on those topics might be wise choices. Half-Price Books on 377 in Watauga and Recycled Books in Denton are great places to find bargain books.

If you are interested in being on the UIL Social Studies team this year, the book is *Madison’s Gift: Five Partnerships That Build America*, by David O. Stewart. You can read it this summer and it will prepare you for the UIL competition and it will count for your summer reading for AP English.

Illustrate an idea in the book that you find compelling. (done either on the computer or by hand) that is 8 ½ by 11 inches and is not the same as the cover of the book.

A paragraph (with textual support) explaining why you find the idea compelling; this should be around 250 words and should be typed or written neatly IN INK. Make sure you proofread for errors, and it should not be torn out of a spiral notebook.

**History**—(Any of these books will supplement your study of AP US History this year.)


**Math and Science:**


**Social Issues and Current Events:**


Friedman, Thomas L. *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America*. 2008.


Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*.

**Nature:**


**Sports:**


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**English IV Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition. As you can surmise from the course title, this class will be comprised of two major areas: literature (novels, plays, short stories, and poetry) and composition (yes…that means crafting essays). You will be responsible for reading a variety of novels and plays on your own, which will require commitment and time management. Time in class will be spent writing, discussing, working on multiple-choice questions, and doing activities intended to improve your performance on the AP English Literature Exam in May.

This summer, you will be expected to read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster during the summer. (Either version of the book is appropriate for our purposes.) The content of this book will guide our discussion and our assignments during the first six weeks and throughout the year.

Over the summer, please obtain a copy of *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. We will start reading this novel the first week of school, so it is vital that you have a copy in your possession.

During the first six weeks, you will choose to work with a text of literary merit. You have read several works of literary merit throughout high school, and any of those would be a great choice. (If you plan to analyze a work you have read previously, it might be a good idea to review the text prior to the start of school.) If you want to read something new this summer, works of literary merit that have been listed numerous times on the AP exam recently include:

Additionally, feel free to do a Google search for titles listed on the AP English Literature exam for essay prompt 3 to find other works of literary merit that may interest you.

If you have questions, please contact the following:

**Byron Nelson High School:**
Denise Tennison dtennison@nisdtx.org

**Northwest High School**
Jamie Weatherall jweatherall@nisdtx.org