

## North Haven High School: Summer 2017

### Summer Reading English 9 L1 and L2

All eighth grade students entering ninth grade are expected to read **ONE** of the following **Nutmeg High School selections** listed below. We encourage students to read more than one book over the summer; however, each student will complete a writing on his or her chosen book during the second week of school.

Students will be given the opportunity to hear about and pick books in June. We have copies available for student use over the summer. The North Haven Library will have some books available to students.

Please take notes on the book using the signposts bookmark. Bring the bookmark and book to school on the first day. Any notes found to have been influenced by unattributed outside sources, such as Internet websites like SparkNotes.com will automatically receive a zero.

#### 2017 HS Nutmeg Nominees

***Mosquitoland* by David Arnold:** Mim was dragged from her home in Ohio to the "wastelands" of Mississippi to live with her father and stepmother, but before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back home. Mim hops aboard a bus to Cleveland on a journey full of unexpected twists and turns, forcing her to redefine her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

***The Queen of the Tearling* by Erika Johansen:** Kelsea has spent her life in exile, being groomed for the day she will claim her birthright as Queen. Her people have been enslaved in exchange for gifts and political favors, but with the help of the knights of the Queen's Guard and a magical sapphire, Kelsey will fight the battle of her life: to free her people and to save her kingdom from the evil sorceress, the Red Queen of Mortmesne.

***Those Who Wish Me Dead* by Michael Koryta:** After Jace witnesses a brutal murder, he is sent into hiding to keep the killers from finding the only living witness to their crime. But they are hot on his trail, and more dangerous than the wildfires racing across the Montana mountains, where Jace thinks he is supposed to be safe.

***A Death-Struck Year* by Makiia Lucier:** A 50% death rate offers little hope to victims of the deadly Spanish Flu. When Cleo Berry escapes her quarantined school, she plans on hiding at home to ride out the sickness. But a chance encounter with a brave nurse forces her to reconsider whether hiding is the right thing to do after all.

***How It Went Down* by Kekla Magoon:** After Tariq's shocking murder, his community must piece together the truth. However, the voices of his community diverge as everyone remembers the incident in a slightly different way. Those who knew him well, and those who didn't, must all determine, "how it went down."

***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson:** Fraternal twins Noah, the painfully shy artist, and Jude, the outspoken daredevil, are driven apart by competition and jealousy. Only if they can find their way back to each other will they discover more about love, the world, and themselves.

***Gabi, a Girl in Pieces* by Isabel Quintero:** Gabi isn't shy about her feelings, her appetite, or her writing, and her smart attitude helps her cope with her messy life. How else can she deal with the fact that her dad is a meth addict, one friend is pregnant, the other just got kicked out of his house, and she's got college applications due?

***Jackaby* by William Ritter:** A blend of Sherlock and Doctor Who, with a detective who can see what no one else can, and his newest assistant, Abigail, who has a knack for noticing details. In their first case together, a serial killer is on the loose in 19th-century New Fiddleham, and Jackaby suspects a supernatural villain.

***Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman** Caden Bosch is a brilliant student until his mind splits between his everyday life and delusions that place him on a sailing ship headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, in the Marianas Trench. Shusterman uses artwork and experiences from his own son's struggles with mental illness to give readers a glimpse into the darkness of schizophrenia

**Sway by Kat Spears:** Whatever you want, Jesse can get. It'll cost you, though. And it's not money he wants in return—it's favors. His no-questions asked, judgement-free services have worked for him all his life, but when Bridget is the item in question, suddenly Jesse's rules don't make sense. And no payment will be enough to soothe his conscience for selling out one of the only genuinely good people he's ever known.

#### **2016 High School Nutmeg Nominees**

**Aristotle & Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz:** Ari is a sad and angry young man when he meets Dante at the local pool. Dante—who is open and happy and expressive where Ari is closed off. Dante—with whom he has so much in common, but who is still so different. Can Dante help Ari better know himself?

**Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock by Matthew Quick:** Leonard has a plan laid out for his 18th birthday: say good-bye to the four people closest to him, murder his former best friend, and commit suicide. As he makes his rounds, is there anyone who will take note of Leonard's odd behavior before it is too late?

**If You Find Me by Emily Murdoch:** 15-year-old Carey barely remembers a time when she lived in a real house instead of an old camper hidden in a large forest. She takes care of her mute younger sister Jenessa as her mentally ill mother disappears for longer and longer periods of time. One day a social worker shows up to return her to the father she has only ever been warned against, and she is thrown into a new life of high school and regular life. Will Carey and Jenessa adjust and speak the truth of what happened in the woods?

**The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman:** This atmospheric fable follows a man's 40-year flashback to a time in his youth when a tragedy set off a chain of events that forced him to face a dark, mysterious, and deadly force. The boy-without-a-name is aided by strange companions to save his family from an evil that has taken over his home.

**Out of Nowhere by Maria Padian:** Soccer captain and high school senior, Tom Bouchard can do no wrong—until he does. Out of nowhere, a night of shenanigans with his best friend changes everything. His once middle-of-the-road existence takes one messy turn after another. Facing the consequences of his actions leads him to finally see the struggles of his best friend's addiction, his girlfriend's bigotry, and the plight of the new Somali immigrants who have flooded his small Maine town. Now he must choose a side.

**Ready Player One by Ernest Cline:** In 2044, real life is so miserable that everyone lives in OASIS, the virtual reality created by James Halliday. When Halliday died, he left a massive puzzle built into OASIS: solve the puzzle and you inherit his fortune. Enter Wade Wyatt, the 18-year-old gamer who solves part one first—and winds up with a bull's-eye on his back. He's got to solve the rest of the puzzle before he's taken out of the game—permanently.

**Sea of Tranquility a Novel by Katja Millay:** After a brutal, random attack, Nastya Kashnikov finds her identity stolen. She used to be a "good" girl well on her way to becoming a concert pianist; now she's silent and angry, and has withdrawn from the world. In an attempt to help her recover, Nastya's parents send her to live with her aunt and get a fresh start in a new school. Here, she meets Josh, who has lost everyone he loves and keeps everyone else at a distance. Is it possible for people to be too damaged to truly reconnect with the world?

**This Song Will Save Your Life by Leila Sales:** Elise has never been part of the popular crowd, despite her best efforts. A chance encounter at an underground club teaches Elise about friendship, romance, and awakens a love of music that gives her the confidence to embrace the unique person she's become.

**Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan:** Harry and Craig, two 17-year-old ex-boyfriends, are about to attempt a new Guinness World Record—a 32 hour marathon of kissing. Filmed and broadcast live, the two boys quickly take center stage in the lives of other teen boys dealing with their own issues of love, identity, and belonging.

**Winger by Andrew Smith:** Ryan Dean West, aka Winger, is a rugby player at a private boarding school who lives in the dorm for troublemakers, is in love with his best friend Annie, and manages to anger just about everyone as he navigates through his sophomore year. Winger gets by using his intelligence and humor, but can he keep it together when tragedy strikes?

### **2015 High School Nutmeg Nominees**

**Boy21 by Matthew Quick:** Basketball is Finley's only saving grace, and his ticket out of his poor, crime-ridden Pennsylvania town. Russ was a basketball star until tragedy struck. Now Finley's quiet friendship may help Russ come out of his shell. And Russ' strange but steadfast friendship may help Finley see a bigger world. This is a book about troubled souls, athletics as a saving grace, and big-heartedness.

**Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein:** A plane goes down in Nazi-occupied France. Two British girls, one a pilot and the other a spy, fight for survival. Code Name Verity is a story of loyalty, courage, and friendship set amid the backdrop of World War II.

**The Diviners by Libba Bray:** Flappers, the occult, and a serial killer: OH MY! When seventeen year old Evie moves to New York City, she finds herself facing a supernatural serial killer whilst reveling in the Roaring 20s. Will Evie and her newfound friends be able to stop Naughty John from striking again?

**Every Day by David Levithan:** Imagine waking up not knowing your gender, whether you are rich or poor and who your friends really are. "A" faces this quandary as he/she takes over the body and life of a different person every day. When "A" falls in love, life becomes very complicated.

**Graffiti Moon by Cath Crowley:** Lucy sets off one night in search of brilliant graffiti artist Shadow and his sidekick Poet. Along the way she meets a boy who could be her soul mate—if only he were Shadow. Art, poetry, and identity flow like battery acid through this lyrical novel.

**My Book of Life by Angel by Martine Leavitt:** Sixteen-year-old Angel is lured into a life of drugs and prostitution, so her heart goes out to the little girl her "boyfriend" Call brings home one day. This novel in verse is full of pain—and hope.

**Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormick:** Arn is just a child when the Khmer Rouge seize power in Cambodia. In this novel based on a true story, he learns to do whatever it takes to survive the Killing Fields.

**Out of the Easy by Ruta Sepetys:** Josie has grown up in a New Orleans brothel, but dreams of attending Smith College in Massachusetts—and in the 1950s, that's not an easy goal, even for a society girl. Does the daughter of a French Quarter prostitute have what it takes to get out of the Big Easy?

**The Reapers Are the Angels by Alden Bell:** Temple is too young to remember a world without zombies. She has spent her years wandering through a dangerous wilderness in search of isolated groups of "survivors". Bell has written a deeply atmospheric and truly frightening futuristic tale in which the real monsters are the ones who are still alive.

**The Round House by Louise Erdrich:** Thirteen-year-old Joe Coutts is forced to grow up when his mother is assaulted on ground sacred to his Native American tribe. As he and his friends desperately seek the truth of what has happened, his father looks to the law for answers. Watching the authorities argue over whose jurisdiction the case falls under, Joe is must make a choice: which code does he want to live by?

**Daughter of Smoke & Bone** by Laini Taylor: Karou has secrets. Secrets she cannot tell her fellow art students in Prague. Secrets so marvelous that even she will not believe the truth behind them. This enchanting novel explores identity and love.

**Everybody Sees the Ants** by A.S. King: When a teenager prefers to spend his time inside his grandfather's nightmarish dreams of the POW camps in Vietnam rather than face the reality of his life, you know he has it rough. It's only when Lucky Linderman realizes that nobody's life is perfect that he can (maybe) find the strength to, well, live.

**Hold Me Closer, Necromancer** by Lish McBride: Sam knows magic exists, but he never thought HE had powers. Imagine Sam's surprise when he discovers he can raise the dead. To add to Sam's problems, a very evil and dangerous man wants Sam to work with him, or else. Horror has never been so humorous.

**Kings of Colorado** by David E. Hilton: Everyone has to grow up. William's time comes when he stabs his abusive father with a penknife. He is sent to a boys' reformatory in Montana where boys break wild horses and the reformatory breaks wild boys.

**The Night Circus** by Erin Morgenstern: Two young magicians, two horrendous father figures, two clever twins, one supernatural circus, hundreds of passionate circus fans, and one deadly contest.

**Shine** by Lauren Myracle: A terrible hate crime rocks a rural southern community. With her best friend in a coma as a result, Cat is determined to solve the mystery. In doing so, Cat uncovers some unbelievable truths about her own family, friends, the small town she lives in, and, most surprisingly, herself.

**The Watch That Ends the Night** by Allan Wolf: In poems reflecting the voices of over twenty distinct characters based on real people (including the ship's rat and the infamous iceberg), readers experience the first, and final, voyage of the "unsinkable" Titanic.

**Wintergirls** by Laurie Halse Anderson: Lia struggles with anorexia, her parents, and the death of her bulimic ex-friend Casie. This novel offers a riveting view into the often mysterious world of eating disorders.



| Notice & Note <i>Signposts</i> Bookmark                                                                                                                                                                                                | Notice & Note <i>Signposts</i> Bookmark                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name _____<br>Book _____                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>Record page numbers and brief responses to the signposts you see. Try to find two good examples for each signpost.</i> |
| <b><i>Signpost Descriptions</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                           |
| <b><i>Contrasts and Contradictions</i></b><br>When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements <b>STOP</b> and ask, "Why is the character doing that?"              | <b><i>Contrasts and Contradictions</i></b>                                                                                |
| <b><i>AHA Moment</i></b><br>When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something <b>STOP</b> and ask yourself, "How might this change things?"                                                                     | <b><i>AHA Moment</i></b>                                                                                                  |
| <b><i>Tough Questions</i></b><br>When a character asks him or herself a very difficult question, <b>STOP</b> and ask yourself, "What does this question make me wonder about?"                                                         | <b><i>Tough Questions</i></b>                                                                                             |
| <b><i>Words of the Wiser</i></b><br>When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the main character aside and offers serious advice, <b>STOP</b> and ask, "What's the point of the lesson and how might it affect the character?" | <b><i>Words of the Wiser</i></b>                                                                                          |
| <b><i>Again &amp; Again</i></b><br>When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over, <b>STOP</b> and ask yourself, "Why does this keep happening over and over again?"                                             | <b><i>Again &amp; Again</i></b>                                                                                           |
| <b><i>Memory Moment</i></b><br>When and author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory, <b>STOP</b> and ask yourself, "Why or how might this memory be important?"                                                            | <b><i>Memory Moment</i></b>                                                                                               |