

North Haven High School: Summer 2016

Summer Reading English 10 L1 and L2

All ninth grade students entering tenth grade are expected to read ONE of the following books 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. The books below contain themes connected to the ninth grade curriculum.

Students will be given the opportunity to hear about and pick books in June. We have copies available for student use over the summer. If students do not choose their books in June, they can call the main office during summer school hours to borrow books. The North Haven Library will have some books available to students.

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

Summer Reading Book Choices:

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laurie Halse Anderson

Tell the Wolves I'm Home by Carol Rifka Brunt

Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman

Note: Students with reading difficulties should work with their reading, special education or ELA teacher to select an appropriate book.

Book Descriptions

The Bean Trees (Fiction): Feisty Marietta Greer changes her name to "Taylor" when her car runs out of gas in Taylorville, Ill. By the time she reaches Oklahoma, Taylor is catapulted into a surprising new life. Taylor leaves home in a beat-up '55 Volkswagen bug, on her way to nowhere in particular. But when a forlorn Cherokee woman drops a baby in Taylor's passenger seat and asks her to take it, she does. Taylor playfully names her little foundling "Turtle," because she clings with an unrelenting, reptilian grip; at the same time, Taylor aches at the thought of the silent, staring child's past suffering. With Turtle in tow, Taylor lands in Tucson, Ariz., with two flat tires and decides to stay. The desert climate, landscape and vegetation are completely foreign to Taylor, and in learning to love Arizona, she also comes face to face with its rattlesnakes and tarantulas. Similarly, Taylor finds that motherhood, responsibility and independence are thorny, if welcome, gifts. This funny, inspiring book is a marvelous affirmation of risk-taking, commitment and everyday miracles.

Into Thin Air (Nonfiction): A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more—including Krakauer's—in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for **Into Thin Air**, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster. By writing **Into Thin Air**,

Krakauer may have hoped to exorcise some of his own demons and lay to rest some of the painful questions that still surround the event. He takes great pains to provide a balanced picture of the people and events he witnessed and gives due credit to the tireless and dedicated Sherpas. Krakauer's highly personal inquiry into the catastrophe provides a great deal of insight into what went wrong. Clearly, Krakauer remains haunted by the disaster, and although he relates a number of incidents in which he acted selflessly and even heroically, he seems unable to view those instances objectively. In the end, despite his evenhanded and even generous assessment of others' actions, he reserves a full measure of vitriol for himself.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (Nonfiction):** Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local townspeople. At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns about love for herself and the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Poetic and powerful, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is a modern American classic that will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read.

***The Impossible Knife of Memory* by Laurie Halse Anderson (Fiction):** For the past five years, Hayley Kincaid and her father, Andy, have been on the road, never staying long in one place as he struggles to escape the demons that have tortured him since his return from Iraq. Now they are back in the town where he grew up so Hayley can attend school. Perhaps, for the first time, Hayley can have a normal life, put aside her own painful memories, even have a relationship with Finn, the hot guy who obviously likes her but is hiding secrets of his own. Will being back home help Andy's PTSD, or will his terrible memories drag him to the edge of hell, and drugs push him over? *The Impossible Knife of Memory* is Laurie Halse Anderson at her finest: compelling, surprising, and impossible to put down.

***Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt 1987.** There's only one person who has ever truly understood fourteen-year-old June Elbus, and that's her uncle, the renowned painter Finn Weiss. Shy at school and distant from her older sister, June can only be herself in Finn's company; he is her godfather, confidant, and best friend. So when he dies, far too young, of a mysterious illness her mother can barely speak about, June's world is turned upside down. But Finn's death brings a surprise acquaintance into June's life—someone who will help her to question what she thinks she knows about Finn, her family, and even herself.

***Breathing Underwater* by Alex Flinn**

To his friends, popular and handsome sixteen-year-old Nick Andreas has led a charmed life. But the guys in Nick's anger management class know differently. So does his ex-girlfriend Caitlin. Now it looks like the only person who doesn't realize how far from perfect Nick's life has become is Nick himself. Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.

***Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman**

With a family always on the move, popularity and the ability to fit in quickly are vital to Brent Bishop's high school survival. When he blows his chances with the girl of his dreams in front of everyone, he's devastated. Brent tries to end it all in a fatal car crash, but instead he finds an unlikely beginning. He's sent on a journey of repentance—a cross-country trip building whirligigs. His wind toys are found by people in need: a Maine schoolgirl yearning for her first love, a Miami street-sweeper desperate for peace and quiet, a kid in Washington who just wants to play baseball, and a San Diego teenager dealing with loss. Brent's whirligigs bring hope to others, but will they be able to heal the wounds deep inside himself?

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