

North Haven High School: Summer 2015

Summer Reading English 11 L1 and L2

All 10th grade students entering 11th 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 one book during the first full week of school. The books below feature characters struggling with big conflicts.

Students will be given the opportunity to hear about and pick books in June.

Please take notes on the book using the signposts bookmark which follows. Bring the bookmark and book to school on the first day.

Summer Reading Book Choices:

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Looking for Alaska by John Green

Paper Towns by John Green

It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini

Twelve Mighty Orphans by Jim Dent

L1—*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

L1—*The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson

Book Summaries

***Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller**

Willy Loman struggles to achieve the American dream in this classic play, but is thwarted by culture, circumstance and his own nature. While his supportive wife Linda tries to bolster his ego, his grown sons Hap and Biff disappoint him at every turn never understanding the terrible trouble their father is in..

***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**

In 1949 four Chinese women-drawn together by the shadow of their past-begin socializing and telling their stories. They call their gathering the Joy Luck Club. Nearly forty years later, one of the members has died, and her daughter has come to take her place, only to learn of her mother's lifelong wish-and the tragic way in which it has come true. The revelation of this secret unleashes an urgent need among the women to reach back and remember... In this extraordinary first work of fiction, Amy Tan writes about what is lost-over the years, between generations, among friends-and what is saved.

***Looking for Alaska* by John Green**

A deeply affecting coming-of-age story, *Looking for Alaska* traces the journey of Miles Halter, a misfit Florida teenager who leaves the safety of home for a boarding school in Alabama and a chance to explore the "Great Perhaps." Debut novelist and NPR commentator Green perfectly captures the intensity of feeling and despair that defines adolescence in this hip, shocking, and emotionally charged work of fiction.

***Paper Towns* by John Green**

When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night—dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge—he follows her. Margo's always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she's always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q. . . until day breaks and she has vanished. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they're for Q.

***It's Kind of a Funny Story* by Ned Vizzini**

Like many ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. Determined to succeed at life—which means getting into the right high school to get into the right college to get the right job—Craig studies night and day to ace the entrance exam, and does. That's when things start to get crazy. At his new school, Craig realizes that he isn't brilliant compared to the other kids; he's just average, and maybe not even that. He soon sees his once-perfect future crumbling away. The stress becomes unbearable and Craig stops eating and sleeping—until, one night, he nearly kills himself. Hospitalized and isolated from the crushing pressures of school and friends, Craig is finally able to confront the sources of his anxiety. This is a remarkably moving tale about the sometimes unexpected road to happiness. For a novel about depression, it's definitely a funny story.

***Twelve Mighty Orphans (Nonfiction)*, by Jim Dent**

They Were Just a Scrawny Band of Orphans from Fort Worth, Texas, in the 1930s and 1940s—the Masonic Home Mighty Mites, a group of boys bound together by hardship and death. Their first practice started without a football, only six scarred leather helmets, and mismatched, tattered jerseys. But their devoted coach, who worked for peanuts and drove them around in the Home's antique, smoke-belching truck they called Old Blue, inspired them to believe in themselves—and within a few years they were playing for the state championship against the biggest and richest high schools in the state, despite being outweighed at least thirty pounds a man. Soon they attracted legions of fans far beyond the borders of Texas.

Twelve Mighty Orphans is the remarkable and inspirational story of an orphanage, its barefoot boys, and the selfless man who created one of the greatest football teams in Texas history. Here is their story—the original Friday Night Lights.

***L1—Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Melinda is a friendless outcast at Merryweather High. She busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, and now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. It is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and who is still a threat to her. It will take another violent encounter with him to make Melinda fight back. This time she refuses to be silent.

***L1—The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson**

Bobby's a classic urban teenager. He's restless. He's impulsive. But the thing that makes him different is this: He's going to be a father. His girlfriend, Nia, is pregnant, and their lives are about to change forever. Instead of spending time with friends, they'll be spending time with doctors, and next, diapers. They have options: keeping the baby, adoption. They want to do the right thing.

If only it was clear what the right thing was.

Notice & Note <i>Signposts</i> Bookmark
Name _____ Book _____
<i>Signpost Descriptions</i>
<p><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?"</p>
<p><i>AHA Moment</i> When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something STOP and ask yourself, "How might this change things?"</p>
<p><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?"</p>
<p><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?"</p>
<p><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?"</p>
<p><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?"</p>

Notice & Note <i>Signposts</i> Bookmark
<i>Record page numbers and brief responses to the signposts you see. Try to find two good examples for each signpost.</i>
<i>Contrasts and Contradictions</i>
<i>AHA Moment</i>
<i>Tough Questions</i>
<i>Words of the Wiser</i>
<i>Again & Again</i>
<i>Memory Moment</i>