

Northridge Summer Reading Program High School

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”

– Joseph Addison

Level	Title	Author	Publisher	Publ. Date
Freshman	The Fellowship of the Ring: Book I <i>(This book is divided into two parts. Read only Book I)</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	Del Rey	1986
Sophomores	Animal Farm	George Orwell	Signet	1996
	<i>Choose one:</i> Lord of the Flies	William Golding	Penguin	2012
	Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc	Mark Twain	Dover	2002
Juniors	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	Dover	1994
	A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry	Vintage	2004
Seniors	Crime and Punishment	Dostoevsky	Dover	2001
	* Plus College Essay assignment			

Assignment

All Students

- Read the required books
- And choose either to either annotate it or write a short story
 - *Note: students who write a short story will **still be tested for reading the book***

Seniors

- In addition to the above, Seniors must also write a college application essay. Please see instructions below.

Annotating:

Responding to the Literature as You Read

Rather than simply read the assigned books, we want to encourage you to think critically about what you're reading. To help you with this, you will be making annotations directly in the book.

Making Annotations

What is annotating?

- An act of active reading which requires the reader to do more than merely absorb the plot or superficial meaning of a work.
- Recording notes about what happens, important questions, symbols, rhetorical elements, and important ideas.
- It includes: highlighting, underlining, starring, bracketing, commenting, questioning, and responding.
- An essential skill of a critical reader and analytical thinker and writer.

How do I annotate literature?

- Keep marginal notes about important plot elements.
- Record interpretative questions as you read.
- Look up words and allusions that you don't know.
- Highlight or underline important statements or ideas in the literary work.
- Use a variety of symbols to indicate what parts of the work need further discussion or investigation. (Commonly used symbols: * (for key passages), ? (for passages that raise important questions), ! (for information that is surprising))

Why bother with annotations?

- Annotating provides you with a way of interacting with the literature which is an essential skill for the AP exams, for college, and for life.
- It will give you a better recollection of what you read.
- It will provide you with what you need to study for quizzes and tests.
- It will assist you in discussing and writing about literature.
- It will help you to monitor your own understanding of the work.
- It will enrich your reading experience with depth and meaning.

Grading

- A = the book contains frequent underlining (no more than a few pages pass without notes), consistent marginal notes, and signs of interacting with the literary work (questions, stars, highlights, etc.)
- B = the book contains some underlining, a few marginal notes, and some signs of interacting with the work
- C = the book contains a few underlined passages and a few comments or endnotes

- D = a few passages are occasionally underlined or highlighted
- F = no notes or underlining have been made in the book

Alternative to Annotating: Short Story Contest

In lieu of annotating the summer reading books, student may choose to enter the Northridge Short Story Contest. The top stories will be featured in the next edition of Knight Visions, the Northridge annual literary magazine.

The rules for this option are as follows:

- 10-15 pages double-spaced
- No gratuitous violence or other objectionable content
- No thinly-veiled plots lifted from video game material

FOR SENIORS ONLY

College Application Essay

In addition, seniors must write a college application essay by completing Choice A or B below. Please email your essay as a Microsoft Word document to Mr. Barder (rbarder@northridgeprep.org) by August 12, 2017. **In the document heading, please quote the prompt you are addressing.**

Choice A: Turn in a polished draft of one of the essays listed on the Common Application (see prompts below).

Choice B: Turn in a polished draft of an essay that is required for one of the colleges to which you are applying (please list not only the prompt but also the particular college that requires it).

(Instructions from Common App) The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. Your minimum word count is 250 words.

2017-2018 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application 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*.
6. *Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?*
7. *Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.**

**If a student wishes to pursue the seventh option above, he should first seek out Mr. Barder's approval so as to make sure that the essay topic is compatible with colleges' expectations.*