

## NLCS HIGH SCHOOL READING LIST

CHOOSE FROM THIS LIST FOR YOUR  
SUMMER AND YEAR-LONG READING.

You are expected to read 22 books from this list during your four years in High School; TWO MUST BE READ each summer, (preparing for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.) and four books must be read during each school year.

EACH BOOK YOU READ DURING SUMMER, AND DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, CARRIES A TEST GRADE, AWARDED AFTER THE LOG IS SIGNED. THE SUMMER TEST GRADES WILL BE RECORDED DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF SCHOOL AND THEREFORE WILL AFFECT YOUR FIRST REPORT CARD.

BOOKS ON THE LIST MAY BE CHOSEN FOR BOOK REPORTS; A BOOK REPORT ALWAYS CARRIES A TEST GRADE. YOU WILL RECEIVE ONE GRADE FOR THE REPORT AND ANOTHER FOR LOGGING THE BOOK.

IF YOU CHOOSE A DIFFERENT BOOK FOR A REPORT, YOU MUST STILL COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS LIST.

GRADES FOR READING WILL BE ASSESSED AT THE END OF EACH SEMESTER, ASSUMING THAT HALF THE YEAR'S REQUIREMENT (TWO BOOKS) HAS BEEN MET BY THE END OF EACH SEMESTER. PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE ON TRACK.

**NOTE: A ZERO GRADE WILL BE GIVEN AT THE END OF EACH SEMESTER FOR EACH BOOK MISSING FROM YOUR QUOTA.**

You will log every book you read; a parent's signature must accompany the name of each book.

*If you enter NLCS High School at a level other than 9<sup>th</sup> grade, your reading requirement will be adjusted accordingly.*

If you find a book for a book report that is not on this list, please check with your teacher BEFORE reading it. Some of the authors have a specific book listed, but that does not mean that all their books are recommended. Examples: John Steinbeck, Mark Twain, Alexander McCall Smith.

**THE ROBE:** Lloyd Douglas. 1942.

This story presents a moving retelling of the crucifixion of Christ from the vantage of a Roman tribune commanding the unit that puts Jesus on the cross. It offers an interesting alternate perspective, as historical fiction, regarding this pivotal event in human and eternal history.

**THE PEARL :** John Steinbeck

Depressing but rated a classic. This book is short but intense. The themes are poverty, wealth, and injustice.

**REBECCA :** Daphne du Maurier

Romance, tragedy, & intrigue set in 18<sup>th</sup> century England. Maxim de Winter's young second wife becomes the new mistress of the grand English estate of Manderley. As the story unfolds, the unnamed heroine gradually uncovers a strange and dark mystery surrounding the marriage and death of Rebecca, Maxim's glamorous first wife, who has been dead for eight months.

**ANY BOOK** by the same author is OK.

**THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE \*:** Robert Louis Stevenson. 1886.

Dr. Jekyll, a research scientist, develops a drug that changes him from a good person to a bad one. Though the two antagonistic personalities mesh within one body, the evil Mr. Hyde is the dominant personality and must be annihilated. *Do not choose this book if it features in the English curriculum of the coming year; check with Mrs. Kilmer.*

**PEACE CHILD:** Don Richardson. 1975.

A missionary couple learns the secret to winning over a tribal community that tragically honors deceit and treachery above all. In the midst of terrible tribal warfare, a startling analogy presents itself to demonstrate to the tribal people God's love in sending His own Son as a redeeming sacrifice.

**THE HOBBIT:** J.R.R Tolkien. 1937.

A precursor to The Lord of the Rings, this tale follows the unlikely hobbit-hero Bilbo Baggins through his many adventures through Middle Earth alongside the good wizard Gandalf. During these adventures, Bilbo encounters the unfortunate creature Gollum in an underground lake and wins from him the ancient and cursed One Ring, setting into motion the eventual quest Bilbo's nephew will take to destroy it.

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS (trilogy) :** J.R.R.Tolkien.

This legendary three-part epic follows the "young" hobbit Frodo and his companions through the seemingly impossible quest to destroy the evil One Ring in the fires of Mount Doom. *The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, and The Return of the King* are filled with themes of destiny, faith, sacrifice, redemption, and victory of good over evil. (One book of the trilogy is OK for a report or for the log)

**TALES OF POE:** Edgar Allan Poe

Classic psychological horror in a Victorian setting.

*(If you choose this for a report, you must read and report on at least four stories.)*

**ANIMAL FARM:** George Orwell

Reads like a simple story; really a searching look at Communism

**GOOD MORNING MISS DOVE:** Frances. Gray Patton

About an early-20<sup>th</sup> century school teacher.

**\*A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT:** Mark Twain.. 1889.

This tale of time-travel revolves around Hank Morgan, a 19th century Connecticut man who, inexplicably transported in his sleep (after a head trauma), wakes up under an oak tree in King Arthur's England. As he tries to

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND:** Lewis Carroll.

**THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS:** Lewis Carroll

Both these books are strange and weird, giving insight into one writer's idea of what a child might enjoy.

Through the Looking Glass is a backwards world since Alice literally walks through a mirror. The story is based on a real game of chess. Read either one to get the un-Disney real truth!

**WINNIE THE POOH:** A.A. Milne

**THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER:** A.A. Milne

Read both for a report. These children's' stories offer many insights into human behavior. Read them to get the true version before Disney messed with them.

**THE JUNGLE BOOK:** Rudyard Kipling

Entertaining insights into animal behavior. Set in colonial India.

**\*TALIESIN**

**\*MERLIN**

**\*ARTHUR**

This trilogy is by Stephen Lawhead.

Each book is an exciting and action-packed novel about King Arthur's time. Lawhead has done much research and come up with the theory that King Arthur could have been a Christian leader with a heroic, Irish wife.

Merlin is seen as a benevolent prophet of God. They are long books but easy reading. One book is OK for a report and for the log. You will need to start with the first if you intend to read more in the trilogy.

**LOVE'S ENDURING PROMISE:** Janette Oke

A love story, probably more appreciated by female readers ☺

**THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA**, any two books in the series counts as one book for report and log purposes. Stories with strong Christian themes. If (and only if) you have never read a Narnia book, you may read one (only) in High School.

**THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY:** Alexander McCall Smith.

Modern novel set in Botswana, Africa. Gently funny account of a lady determined to establish her business while encountering some rather strange people.

**\*UNCLE TOM'S CABIN:** Harriet Beecher-Stowe

One of the most well-known and powerful works of anti-slavery literature, the story reveals the cruelty Stowe recognized in her contemporary society. The author also illustrates through her characters the very real power of Christian love in conquering the evils of this world. While maintaining its place as the best-selling novel of the 19th century, the text contains culturally-accurate language and subject matter that may require teacher or parental explanation.

**\*OUR TOWN:** Thornton Wilder. 1938.

This Pulitzer Prize winning drama features glimpses into the everyday lives of several characters from the fictional small town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. The play's structure employs an effective dramatic technique by allowing the main character, the Stage Manager, to be aware of his presence in the dramatic production and to communicate directly with the audience. Much of the play's beauty lies in its portrayal of the daily relationships, loves, struggles, and hopes of an American family.

**\*NEMESIS**

**\*SLEEPING MURDER**

**ANY OTHER BOOK BY PERETTI EXCEPT THE CHILDREN'S SERIES.**

**THE PRISONER IN THE THIRD CELL:** Gene Edwards.

This book is an interesting look at the last days of John the Baptist. Very readable.

Not all books by this author are recommended so please check with Mrs. Kilmer.

**\*THE SHACK:** William P. Young

This book is controversial because of the way it depicts God. Recommended to stick with it for what you learn and the way it makes you think about God.

**"THE MARK OF THE LION" SERIES: A VOICE IN THE WIND, AN ECHO IN THE DARKNESS, AS DAWN:** Francine Rivers

Exciting novels featuring Christians in the Roman Empire. Francine Rivers is a gifted writer who knows detailed historical facts and brings them to life in amazing ways. These books (it is a trilogy) are page-turners; you will want to start with the first. Two million readers can't be wrong.

**ANY OTHER BOOK BY FRANCINE RIVERS** incl. any in the *LINEAGE OF GRACE* series:

Stories of unlikely women who achieve great things

**ANY BOOK IN THE LEFT BEHIND SERIES:** La Haye & Jenkins

About end times. There are disagreements about this interpretation of the Book of Revelation, so check with Pastor or parent before reading.

**ELI:** Bill Myers

How would you treat Jesus if he showed up in the flesh today?

**PERPETUA:** Amy Rachel Peterson

Based on the true story of the life and death of a young Roman noblewoman, around 200 A.D.

This book is much like a book in the "Mark of the Lion" series

**\*WHEN HEAVEN WEEPS:** Ted Dekker

Very intense story. Some violence.

**\*OTHER BOOKS BY DEKKER**

**\*BEN-HUR: A TALE OF THE CHRIST:** Lew Wallace.1880.

Weaving together the historical account of the birth and life of Jesus and the fictional account of main character Judah, a Hebrew prince of the house of Hur, this novel beautifully intertwines these plotlines, bringing the reader through a powerful account of one man (and one family's) realization of the true identity of Christ, the very real hope found in Him, and the true purpose of the Church. This novel was the best-selling American novel from its own time until *Gone with the Wind* earned the title in 1936, and interestingly, it was the first work of fiction to be blessed by a pope.

**CHRISTY:** Catherine Marshall

Based on the early life & romance of the author's mother but set in a fictional Appalachian village in the 1930s. Explores faith and mountain traditions that are both touching and infuriating.

**\*MERE CHRISTIANITY:** C.S.Lewis

An account by a man who set out to disprove the Bible and ended up converted. Needs to be read carefully; this is Not a book to be read in a hurry.

The **FORBIDDEN DOOR SERIES:** Bill Meyers

Novels with a theme of avoiding the dark side of the supernatural. *Mrs. K has not read these books but Bill Meyers seems like a trustworthy author.* Parent comments welcome.

**THE KON-TIKI EXPEDITION:** Thor Heyardahl

Story of a trip across the Pacific on a small raft. (Unabridged version please)

**GIDEON – POWER FROM WEAKNESS:** Jeff Lucas

You will have strengthened your faith by the time you finish this one. English humor.

**ELIJAH – ANOINTED & STRESSED:** Jeff Lucas

Lucas has an unusual sense of humor in both his books. Another faith-building book.

**\*THE LATE, GREAT PLANET EARTH:** Hal Lindsey

Classic readable book that led hundreds to the Lord in the 1960's.

**THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND:** Tony Campolo

Another handbook on spiritual warfare. Very insightful.

**\*ANOINTED FOR BURIAL:** Todd & DeAnn Burke

A thrilling eyewitness account of the last days of Cambodia in the 1970s. Shows the power of God and simple faith. Quite long but worth it.

**THE JOURNAL OF JOHN WESLEY**

The everyday and spiritual life of one of the world's most famous English revival preachers who was ejected from the church for being "too radical".

**BORN FOR BATTLE:** R.A. Matthews

An easy explanation of spiritual warfare that helps prepare for the rest of your life.

**\*WRITINGS OF JONATHAN EDWARDS**

The sermons & writings of one of the world's most famous revival preachers. He was influential to the thinking that led to the War of Independence.

**\*ADDICTED TO MEDIOCRITY:** Francis Schaeffer

About the true place of Art in our society and our Christian life and how we have lowered our standards.

**A CHILD CALLED IT:** David Pelzer

**THE LOST BOY:** David Pelzer

Both of the above books are to do with misunderstood children and abuse.