
Sandra Day O'Connor High School

12221 Leslie Road
Helotes, Texas 78023



Welcome to Advanced Academics!

Reading is one of the best things you can do to prepare yourself for the challenges of your freshman year. Enjoying a good book will help expand your vocabulary, deepen critical thinking, and enhance focus and imagination. Equally important, reading is the very best way to strengthen your writing skills!

As a Northside Advanced English I student, we ask that this summer you:

- Read at least one novel of your choice from the selections listed below.
- In order to help with the understanding of your book, please participate in a TWO PAGE SPREAD using the sentence stems from ["TRACK YOUR THINKING"](#) by Kelly Gallagher to assist in your Summer Reading Assignments during the first quarter.

Remember, you can pick whichever novel you wish to read from the selections below. They are books that are popular in the library, award winners, or recommended by teachers. The novels marked by an asterisk indicate those which are on the Northside approved book list. Other titles may contain adult themes and content, so we encourage you to do some research or speak with your parents before selecting a title.

You can check out digital books on Sora, Libby, and Overdrive through your school library.

Happy Reading!

There Might Be Kissing: Romance

1. *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell
2. *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende
3. *One Day* by David Nicholls
4. *Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen
5. *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon
6. *There's Something About Sweetie* by Sandhya Menon

Nice Place to Visit, But I Wouldn't Want to Live There: Sci Fi, Dystopian, Post

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Apocalyptic

1. *Babel-17* by Samuel R. Delany
2. *The Circle* by Dave Eggers
3. *The Illustrated Man** by Ray Bradbury
4. *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
5. *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman
6. *Vox* by Christina Dalcher
7. *Warcross* by Marie Lu

Everybody Has Secrets: Mystery

1. *Bellweather Rhapsody* by Kate Racculia
2. *Mercy Rule* by Tom Leveen
3. *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson
4. *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan
5. *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith
6. *The Raven Boys* by Maggie Stiefvater

Creepy and We Like it: Horror/Thriller

1. *Blue Moon* by Lee Child
2. *The Girl With All the Gifts* by M.R. Carey
3. *Gwendy's Button Box* by Stephen King and Richard Chizmar
4. *A Headful of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay
5. *In the Woods* by Tana French
6. *NOS4A2* by Joe Hill
7. *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman
8. *The Poet* by Michael Connelly
9. *The Raven's Tale* by Cat Winters

Remembering Wars and Other Larger-Than-Life Events: Historical Fiction

1. *11/23/63* by Stephen King
2. *The Fountains of Silence* by Ruta Sepetys
3. *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Pérez
4. *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris
5. *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nahisi Coates
6. *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers

What? You Thought only Boys could be Tough?: Books with Strong Female

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Protagonists

1. *The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak
2. *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery
3. *The Impossible Knife of Memory* by Laurie Halse Anderson
4. *Stepsister* by Jennifer Donnelly
5. *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi

So, You Think You're a Tough Guy?: Books with Strong Male Protagonists

1. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
2. *Bridge of Clay* by Markus Zusak
3. *Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury
4. *Gutless* by Carl Deuker
5. *Here to Stay* by Sara Farizan
6. *I Am Alfonso Jones* by Tony Medina
7. *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles
8. *Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe
9. *What Is the What* by Dave Eggers

Teen Angst: Relatable Stories of High School Drama

1. *Every Exquisite Thing* by Matthew Quick
2. *Goodbye Days* by Jeff Zentner
3. *Us Against You* by Fredrick Backman

This Is My Life: Coming of Age

1. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz
2. *Bless Me, Ultima** by Rudolfo Anaya
3. *Darius The Great is Not Okay* by Adbi Khorram
4. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
5. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
6. *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart

* Indicates vetted, approved titles from the NISD English I-IV Approved Reading List