

# Northside High School Summer Reading

Each grade level is required to read one assigned novel (see below) and demonstrate close reading (via annotations in the book or reading notes). Due on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Parents and guardians are encouraged to research and read their children's assigned novels. Should there be any questions or concerns, please email Mrs. Ginther at [ginther.tabitha@muscogee.k12.ga.us](mailto:ginther.tabitha@muscogee.k12.ga.us).

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Pre-AP 9<sup>th</sup> Grade:

***Night* by Elie Wiesel** (be sure to get the New Translation by Marion Wiesel). *Night* is a true account of Elie Wiesel's experience with his father in the Nazi German concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944–45, at the height of the Holocaust toward the end of the Second World War.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade and Pre-AP 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:

***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline**. In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade and AP 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:

***The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls**. This memoir recounts Walls' and her siblings' unconventional, poverty-stricken upbringing at the hands of their deeply dysfunctional parents. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered. *The Glass Castle* is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade and AP 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

***The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien**. The Vietnam War still has the power to divide Americans between those for it and those against. Today it also divides us, just as surely, between those who remember its era firsthand and those not yet born when the troops came home. There may be no better bridge across these twin divides than Tim O'Brien's novel in stories *The Things They Carried*. The details of warfare may have changed since Vietnam, but O'Brien's semi-autobiographical account of a young platoon on a battlefield without a front, dodging sniper fire and their own misgivings, continues to win legions of dedicated readers, both in uniform and out.

## Novel Annotations

### **What does it mean to annotate?**

Annotating is a skill practiced by close readers. It involves marking (highlighting, underlining, commenting in the margins) of the pages of the book as one reads it. It's generally thought of as a conversation with and about the book. Yes, you actually write IN the book!

- Whenever a major plot event occurs, record it in the top margin.
- Whenever a new character (especially major characters) is introduced, record it in the top margin. Additionally, make a character list on the inside of the book cover.
- Write questions to the author or character (i.e., Why did he do this?).
- Underline or highlight any “quotable quotes” (i.e., lines that just seem magical or memorable and make you stop and think).
- Summarize (very briefly) each chapter or set of chapters (depending on the length of the chapters).