

**NORTH OLMSTED HIGH SCHOOL
REQUIRED SUMMER READING
2007**

Students enrolled in English classes at North Olmsted High School are required to read novels during the summer. Students registered for an honors level class will read the two novels from the right-hand column. Students not registered for an honors level class may read any one of the novels listed for their grade level, but the novels from the left-hand column are recommended. One week after school begins, the students will be tested on their reading of the novels. It is imperative that the students read the novels, particularly because their first grades in the classes will be based on the Summer Reading Test and the novels will be used and referred to throughout the year.

Non-Honors Reading List

GRADE 9

Whirligig—Paul Fleischman
Monster—Walter Dean Meyers

GRADE 10

Ironman—Chris Crutcher
Elsewhere—Gabrielle Zevin

GRADE 11

Secret Life of Bees—Sue Monk Kidd
A Painted House—John Grisham

GRADE 12

Angels and Demons—Dan Brown
The Great Train Robbery—Michael Crichton

Honors Reading List

GRADE 9

The Book of Mordred—Vivian Vande Velde
Rocket Boys (October Sky)—Homer Hickam

GRADE 10

The Life of Pi—Yann Martel
A Gathering of Old Men—Ernest J. Gaines

GRADE 11

Cat's Cradle—Kurt Vonnegut
Ethan Frome—Edith Wharton

GRADE 12

Lords of Discipline—Pat Conroy
The Kite Runner—Khaled Hosseini

Students who are scheduled to take English as a Second Language should read the following books:

GRADE 9

The Outsiders—Susan Eloise Hinton

GRADES 10, 11, 12

Fever—Laurie Halse Anderson

Brief Summaries of Summer Reading Books

Angels and Demons— In this prequel to *The DaVinci Code*, Mr. Langdon attempts to discover the killer of a prominent physicist who was looking to prove that science and religion are intermingled. Some mature language is included.

The Book of Mordred— In the long tradition of Arthurian legends, Mordred has been characterized as a buffoon, a false knight, and bloodthirsty traitor. This book reveals a portrait of this mysterious man through the eyes of the three women who love him.

Cat's Cradle—A mix of satire, fantasy and realism, this story deals with an atomic scientist and the end of the world.

Elsewhere—Fifteen year-old Liz dies in a car accident and goes to a place called Elsewhere. She must try to forget her old life and live a new life as she ages backwards until she is ready to return to Earth.

Ethan Frome – Young Mattie Silver arrives in New England to help Ethan Frome take care of her cousin and his wife, Zeena. Ethan and Mattie develop a mutual attraction with severe consequences.

Fever—Mattie Cook is a teenager living in Philadelphia during the late 18th century. Her hopes and dreams are destroyed when her mother dies of the Yellow Fever and Mattie must flee from the city to escape the epidemic.

A Gathering of Old Men—A white man has been shot dead and lies in the yard of a black man's house. Eighteen old, black men gather at the house and each claims that he is responsible for the killing. By the end of day, many surprises develop.

The Great Train Robbery—This is a fictionalized account of the actual robbery that stunned Victorian England.

Ironman—Beauregard Brewster, a would-be ironman tri-athlete, insults an oppressive teacher and is forced to take an anger-management class with other troubled students.

The Kite Runner – Amir and his best friend Hassan live a charmed life in Kabul, Afghanistan in the 1960s. Their favorite pastime is summer kite running. As part of a racial minority, Hassan becomes a victim of a neighborhood bully, which changes the course of his life and Amir's life forever.

Life of Pi—The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When the ship carrying Pi's family from India to North America sinks, Pi finds himself in a battle for survival.

The Lords of Discipline—In this coming-of-age novel, a young man experiences life at a military academy. Some mature language is included.

Monster—While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

The Outsiders – Ponyboy Curtis and his brothers are in a gang called the "Greasers." Conflicts occur between the "Greasers" and the "Socs," a gang made up of wealthy teens from the other side of town.

A Painted House—Luke Chandler has never kept a secret or told a single lie, but in the long, hot summer of his seventh year, danger comes through the Arkansas Delta, flooding Luke's world with mystery.

Rocket Boys (October Sky)—Fourteen-year-old Homer Hickam decided in 1957 to build his own rockets. They were his ticket out of Coalwood, West Virginia, a mining town that everyone knew was dying.

The Secret Life of Bees—The only person who cares for Lily Owens is Rosaleen, her caretaker. Leaving home with Rosaleen, Lily embarks on a journey to understand her past and discover herself.

Whirligig— Brent tries to commit suicide by driving into oncoming traffic, but he ends up killing a girl in another car instead. Brent travels to the four corners of the United States to build whirligigs as form of restitution for what he did.