

# The New “Leisure Reading” English Requirement

The English department at NorthPointe Christian Middle/High School is updating its required extracurricular reading—now called “Leisure Reading”—and wants you to be aware of these significant changes. We have four goals for students. We want them to

- enjoy reading
- improve their reading comprehension—and writing—skills
- have the opportunity to develop and exercise their ability to discern what is true and Godly in what they read
- be prepared for the expectations of the colleges they will attend

You will note that there are now fewer books on the list. We have tried to select books of educational and moral merit, though it is still important that you help your children select books that reflect the values of your family. Please **pre-approve** the novels that your children read and then **confirm** that your child has completed the reading by providing the appropriate signatures on the new forms.

Students may continue to begin their Leisure Reading on the first day of summer vacation, though there is now a deadline for each of the three segments. (Students may also continue to read ahead of the deadlines.) Students must select at least **two** books—that they have not already read—from the new reading list, and the remainder of the required reading must be approved by their English teacher. The completion of each segment of the Leisure Reading will now account for 10% of the students’ grades. See the chart below for assignments and deadlines.

## Summary of Procedures

- Each student must read two books from the list for his/her grade level.
- The remaining books may be selected by the student but must be approved by the student’s English teacher if they are not on the list.
- Students will get a parent’s approval and signature on the form **prior** to reading a book.
- After reading a book, students must complete the report form for their grade level.
- Parents must sign the form once the students complete the book and report.
- Students will turn in the forms to their teacher by the deadline.

## Note

- Books may be read in advance of the deadline. (Additional copies of the report form are available from the English department or can be photocopied.)
- Books **not** on the list must be novels of an appropriate reading level.
- No more than one book from a series (e.g. The Lord of the Rings, etc.) will count toward the reading requirement.
- Do not read abridged versions without permission.
- Books that might be read in class are not on the list and cannot count for the Leisure Reading requirement.

Number of books required during the summer:	1	1	1
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**Deadline: First day of school**  
**10% of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grade**

Number of books required during the 1 <sup>st</sup> semester:	1	1	1
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**Deadline: Last day of regular class before exams**  
**10% of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grade**

Number of books required during the 2nd semester:	2	2	1
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**Deadline: Last day of regular class before exams**  
**10% of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grade**

Total	4	4	3
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### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

- |     |            |                                    |
|-----|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Adams      | <i>Watership Down</i>              |
| 2.  | Alcott     | <i>Little Women</i>                |
| 3.  | Gilbreath  | <i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i>        |
| 4.  | London     | <i>Call of the Wild</i>            |
| 5.  | Montgomery | <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>        |
| 6.  | Paterson   | <i>Jacob Have I Loved</i>          |
| 7.  | Dickens    | <i>Oliver Twist</i>                |
| 8.  | Goldman    | <i>The Princess Bride</i>          |
| 9.  | Rawls      | <i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>    |
| 10. | Taylor     | <i>Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry</i> |
| 11. | Ten Boom   | <i>The Hiding Place</i>            |
| 12. | Tolkien    | <i>The Hobbit</i>                  |

### 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

- |     |            |  |
|-----|------------|--|
| 1.  | Austin     | <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>                           |
| 2.  | Bunyan     | <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>                            |
| 3.  | Cooper     | <i>Last of the Mohicans</i>                          |
| 4.  | Conrad     | <i>Heart of Darkness</i>                             |
| 5.  | Dickens    | <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>                          |
| 6.  | Greene     | <i>The Power and the Glory</i>                       |
| 7.  | Hemmingway | <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>                       |
| 8.  | Homer      | <i>The Odyssey</i> <u>OR</u> <i>The Iliad</i>        |
| 9.  | Lewis      | <i>The Great Divorce</i> <u>OR</u> <i>Perelandra</i> |
| 10. | Melville   | <i>Billy Budd</i>                                    |
| 11. | Wilde      | <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>                    |

### 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grades

- |     |            |   |
|-----|------------|---|
| 1.  | Bronte     | <i>Wuthering Heights</i>                                |
| 2.  | Cisneros   | <i>The House on Mango Street</i>                        |
| 3.  | Dumas      | <i>The Three Musketeers</i>                             |
| 4.  | Hemmingway | <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>                          |
| 5.  | Lewis      | <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>                            |
| 6.  | Orwell     | <i>Animal Farm</i>                                      |
| 7.  | Potok      | <i>The Chosen</i> <u>OR</u> <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> |
| 8.  | Remarque   | <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>                   |
| 9.  | Stevenson  | <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>      |
| 10. | Tolkien    | <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> (May read one for credit)  |
| 11. | Twain      | <i>The Prince and the Pauper</i>                        |
| 12. | Verne      | <i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i>            |