**Northern High School**

**Summer Reading for 9th Graders**

Welcome, NHS Freshmen! ​Whether you’re headed to the beach, the ball field, or your own backyard, you are encouraged this summer to carve out time to read​. ​The act of ​reading has tremendous benefits​:

● It ​relieves stress​, taking you out of the present and into another place and time.

● It ​builds stamina​ to prepare for college or the workforce. Reading for an hour or two in one sitting is a basic expectation in college.

● It ​prepares you for the world of work​. Author and literacy expert Kelly Gallagher makes this point powerfully in his infographic ​"Why Read?" Ten Reasons.

● It ​builds empathy​. Neil Gaiman, Newbery-award winning author of ​The Graveyard Book​ writes: “​When you watch TV or see a film, you are looking at things happening to other people. Prose fiction is something you build up from 26 letters & a handful of punctuation marks and you, and you alone, using your imagination, create a world and people in it and look out through other eyes. You get to feel things, visit places and worlds you would never otherwise know. You learn that everyone else out there is a ‘me,’ as well. You’re being someone else, and when you return to your own worlds you’re going to be slightly changed.”

Equally important for ​summer​ reading: it enables you to escape into your imagination, to “travel without moving your feet” (Jhumpa Lahiri).

The following is a list of book options for summer reading. All incoming 9th grade merit and honors students are expected to read at least one of these books over the summer break. You will be expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the book that you select through a variety of assessment options at the beginning of your freshman English course. In other words: “Yes, there will be a test on this.”

* *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
* *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green
* *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
* The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

Note to Parents and Guardians: Some books may contain mature themes and content. Thus, parents and guardians are encouraged to take an active role in helping their young person choose books that are the best for them. Several websites, including Common Sense Media and Amazon.com, offer reviews to help parents and students make appropriate selections.