



2026-27 Summer Reading

6th grade

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

Fish in a Tree Lynda Mullaly Hunt

AND 1 Choice Book (any book not previously read)

7th grade standard

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

AND Choose ONE of the following not previously read. *Stella* by

Starlight Sharon M. Draper

Little Women Louisa May Alcott

Spy School Stuart Gibbs

Anne of Green Gables LM Montgomery

Auggie and Me: Three Wonder Stories R.J. Palacio

Vincent & Theo Deborah Heiligman

7th grade honors

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

AND Choose TWO of the following not previously read. *Stella* by

Starlight Sharon M. Draper

Little Women Louisa May Alcott

Spy School Stuart Gibbs

Anne of Green Gables LM Montgomery

Auggie and Me: Three Wonder Stories R.J. Palacio

Vincent & Theo Deborah Heiligman

8th grade standard

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

AND Choose ONE of the following not previously read:

Finding Junie Kim Ellen Oh

Look Both Ways Jason Reynolds

Piecing Me Together Renee Watson

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora Pablo Cartaya

The Wednesday Wars Gary D. Schmidt

The Westing Game Ellen Raskin

8th grade honors

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

The Call of the Wild Jack London

AND Choose ONE of the following not previously read:

Finding Junie Kim Ellen Oh

Look Both Ways Jason Reynolds

Piecing Me Together Renee Watson

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora Pablo Cartaya

The Wednesday Wars Gary D. Schmidt

The Westing Game Ellen Raskin

9th grade standard

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

Poetry Assignment: You will need to print the poems. Be ready to submit your work on the first day of school.

1. Read each poem carefully.
2. In the margins, make brief annotations that highlight important literary elements. (Suggestions for things to note: figurative language, structure and form, tone and meaning, voice, and/or sound devices)
3. At the bottom of each poem, write a 1–2 sentence thoughtful reflection to explain either why or how each poem connects to one of our Harding throughlines.

9-12 Common Read *Theo of Golden* Allen Levi

AND choose ONE of the following not previously read:

Rebecca Daphne du Maurier

The Hobbit J.R.R. Tolkien

The Life of Pi Yann Martel

The Book Thief Markus Zusak

9th grade honors

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

Poetry Assignment: You will need to print the poems. Be ready to submit your work on the first day of school.

1. Read each poem carefully.
2. In the margins, make brief annotations that highlight important literary elements. (Suggestions for things to note: figurative language, structure and form, tone and meaning, voice, and/or sound devices)
3. At the bottom of each poem, write a 1–2 sentence thoughtful reflection to explain either why or how each poem connects to one of our Harding throughlines.

9-12 Common Read *Theo of Golden* Allen Levi

AND choose ONE of the following not previously read:

The Hobbit J.R.R. Tolkien

The Life of Pi Yann Martel

Rebecca Daphne du Maurier

The Book Thief Markus Zusak

10th grade standard

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

Poetry Assignment: You will need to print the poems. Be ready to submit your work on the first day of school.

1. Read each poem carefully.
2. In the margins, make brief annotations that highlight important literary elements. (Suggestions for things to note: figurative language, structure and form, tone and meaning, voice, and/or sound devices)
3. At the bottom of each poem, write a 1–2 sentence thoughtful reflection to explain either why or how each poem connects to one of our Harding throughlines.

9th-12th Common Read *Theo of Golden* Allen Levi

The Old Man and the Sea Ernest Hemingway

10th grade honors

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

Poetry Assignment: You will need to print the poems. Be ready to submit your work on the first day of school.

1. Read each poem carefully.
2. In the margins, make brief annotations that highlight important literary elements. (Suggestions for things to note: figurative language, structure and form, tone and meaning, voice, and/or sound devices)
3. At the bottom of each poem, write a 1–2 sentence thoughtful reflection to explain either why or how each poem connects to one of our Harding throughlines.

9th-12th Common Read *Theo of Golden* Allen Levi

The Invention of Wings Sue Monk Kidd

The Old Man and the Sea Ernest Hemingway

11th grade

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as a separate document

Poetry Assignment: You will need to print the poems. Be ready to submit your work on the first day of school.

1. Read each poem carefully.
2. In the margins, make brief annotations that highlight important literary elements. (Suggestions for things to note: figurative language, structure and form, tone and meaning, voice, and/or sound devices)
3. At the bottom of each poem, write a 1–2 sentence thoughtful reflection to explain either why or how each poem connects to one of our Harding throughlines.

9th-12th Common Read *Theo of Golden* Allen Levi

Lord of the Flies William Golding—thoughtfully annotate and bring text with you during the first couple of weeks of school

11th grade AP Language and Composition:

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as separate document

Poetry Assignment: You will need to print the poems. Be ready to submit your work on the first day of school.

1. Read each poem carefully.
2. In the margins, make brief annotations that highlight important literary elements. (Suggestions for things to note: figurative language, structure and form, tone and meaning, voice, and/or sound devices)
3. At the bottom of each poem, write a 1–2 sentence thoughtful reflection to explain either why or how each poem connects to one of our Harding throughlines.

10th-12th Common Read *Theo of Golden* Allen Levi

Unbroken Laura Hillenbrand

12th grade Capstone

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as separate document

Poetry Assignment: You will need to print the poems. Be ready to submit your work on the first day of school.

1. Read each poem carefully.
2. In the margins, make brief annotations that highlight important literary elements. (Suggestions for things to note: figurative language, structure and form, tone and meaning, voice, and/or sound devices)
3. At the bottom of each poem, write a 1–2 sentence thoughtful reflection to explain either why or how each poem connects to one of our Harding throughlines.

9th-12th Common Read *Theo of Golden* Allen Levi

AND choose ONE of the following not previously read:

Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed by Dashka Slater (2023) **NEHS Common Read**

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah (2017) **NEHS Common Read**

How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water Angie Cruz

The Midnight Library Matt Haig

A Man Called Ove by Frederick Backman

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

12th grade AP Literature and Composition:

Summer Required:

6-12 Common Read Poetry Packet, posted as separate assignment

Poetry Assignment: You will need to print the poems. Be ready to submit your work on the first day of school.

1. Read each poem carefully.
2. In the margins, make brief annotations that highlight important literary elements. (Suggestions for things to note: figurative language, structure and form, tone and meaning, voice, and/or sound devices)
3. At the bottom of each poem, write a 1–2 sentence thoughtful reflection to explain either why or how each poem connects to one of our Harding throughlines.

9th-12th Common Read *Theo of Golden Allen Levi*

Frankenstein Mary Shelley 1818 edition, assignment posted separately on the website