



June 3, 2024

Dear Member of the Class of 2028,

Although we are still in the midst of wrapping up our current school year, the New Trier English Department is excited to welcome you to the Northfield Campus next fall!

NT English endorses summer reading and views it as an enriching experience, one that will help you build skills in the language arts, as well as foster understanding of issues important to us all.

Each course in English selects a required summer reading text in preparation for discussion, activities, assignments, and assessments during the first days of school. The guidelines for each book, listed below, outline the expected reading activities for each text. We suggest that you read the book within two weeks of the beginning of school or review the text before school begins in August.

Your text may be purchased at area bookstores or online. ISBN numbers are provided as a convenience, but any edition, new or used, is acceptable. Course numbers are listed with course titles to help avoid confusion.

We wish you a wonderful summer, and we look forward to meeting you in August.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sarah E. Gompers'.

Sarah Gompers  
English Department Coordinator

**World Studies: English 1/World History-T\***  
*(\*The 9-level course receives 3 level credit)*

**World Studies Level 9 (N202139)**

**Pratchett, Terry. *Nation*.**

Harper Collins, 2009 ISBN-10: 0061433039

When a giant wave destroys his village, Mau is the only one left. Daphne—a traveler from the other side of the globe—is the sole survivor of a shipwreck. Separated by language and customs, the two are united by catastrophe. Joined by other refugees, and struggling to protect the small band, Mau and Daphne defy ancestral spirits, challenge death, and uncover an ancient secret that turns the world upside down. (summary from Amazon).

As you begin reading, the first ten pages can be confusing, so read carefully. By page ten, you will be on the island with Mau. **Read the first 6 chapters** over the summer.

Please write a paragraph for each of these questions:

1. Other than lacking a common language, why do Daphne and Mau have trouble relating to each other's culture?
2. Why do Daphne and Mau struggle to keep traditions alive? (tradition: an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action or behavior)

Also, as you read, **annotate** for the following **by writing notes in the margins of your book**

- new characters' names
- the word "tradition" for traditions on the island
- the word "culture" anytime we learn about island or Trouserman culture
- a question mark (?) by passages you have questions about. Write your questions in the margins.

**English 1, Level 2 Co-Taught  
(N201132)**

**Quick, Matthew. *Boy21*.**

Little and Brown, 2013. ISBN-10: 0316127965

For Finley McManus, basketball serves as both identity and escape. Finley and his longtime girlfriend, Erin Quinn ("probably the best girls' player in the state -- no exaggeration"), work tirelessly on their games. Their plan is to have successful senior seasons, graduate, then move far away from Belmont. Finley's world is shaken, though, when one of the top-ranked point guards in the nation transfers in. He refers to himself as Boy21.  
(from *The New York Times Book Review*)

Boy21, Matthew Quick's beautiful novel set in the fictional working-class, Irish-mob-influenced town of Belmont, is more than a first-rate novel fueled by basketball; it's a first-rate work of art.

After you read Boy21, answer each of the following questions by writing a thoughtful, detailed paragraph (three paragraphs total). Be prepared to show your teacher your responses.

- Who is the most interesting character in this book? Why?
- What is the most important place in the story? Why?
- To which scene did you have the strongest emotional reaction? Why?

**English 1, Level 2 (N200132)**

**Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.**

Vintage Contemporaries, 2004. ISBN-10: 1400032717

Fifteen-year-old Christopher John Francis Boone is mathematically gifted and socially hopeless, raised in a working-class home by parents who can barely cope with their child's quirks. Late one night, Christopher comes across his neighbor's poodle, Wellington, impaled on a garden fork; Christopher cradles the dead dog in his arms, is discovered and arrested. After spending a night in jail, Christopher resolves to discover who actually murdered Wellington (from the Amazon Review).

Once you join your freshman English class in the fall, your English teacher will collect your copy of the book to give you feedback—not a grade—on your annotations. Here are some suggestions for what and how to annotate. The following is a list of options, not requirements. IF you consistently used 1 or 2, that is great.

- Write a 2-3 bullet point summary at the end of each chapter;
- Create a title for each chapter;
- List major characters with brief descriptions and connections to each other; or,
- Bracket sections that surprise, disturb, or confuse you

Reading a library or e-book? Keep your annotations on post-its or in a notebook, then turn those in to your teacher. Whatever you choose to do, remember that you're annotating to better understand the book, not get a grade. While reading, keep your marks simple and quick, so that you don't get pulled away from the story!

**English 1, Level 3 (N200133)**

**Rushdie, Salman. *Haroun and the Sea of Stories***

Granta/Penguin, 1991. ISBN-10: 9780140157376

Join father and son--Rashid and Haroun--on a magical, fantastical journey as they discover the importance of story, whimsy, humor and the necessity these roles play in *any* world.

As you read, what role does storytelling play in this novel? **Underline passages where storytelling plays a particularly significant role, and note what that significance is in the margin.**

Think to your own life. What role has storytelling played in who you are and who you want to become? What parallels (similarities) or connections can you make between the storytelling journey of Rashid and Haroun? What differences? **Mark passages that are especially indicative of these similarities and differences. Again, note what that similarity or difference is in the margin.**

**English 1, Level 4 (N200134)**

**White, T.H. *The Once and Future King*.**

Ace Trade, 1987. ISBN-10: 0441627404

**Please purchase *The Once and Future King*, but read only the first section of the tetralogy entitled "The Sword in the Stone."**

As a boy, Wart and his step-brother Sir Kay, learn the rules of chivalry, until a strange old wizard enters the picture. Wart's training takes on new forms as his tutor, Merlyn, prepares Wart for the day he will stumble across a sword stuck in a stone and do the impossible. This is T.H. White's retelling of the classic legend of King Arthur.

Before beginning the book, write the question below on the inside cover of your book. Keep this question in mind as you read, **underlining** and **annotating** (writing marginal notes in your book) relevant passages from the novel that help you answer it. Additionally, track characters, settings, and plot through your annotations.

**How does each transformation prepare Wart for the day when he must pull the sword from the stone and fulfill his destiny?**