

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Summer Reading Overview

At each grade level students will select one book to read from the lists below. They will use the attached note taking form to document their reading. Upon our return to school, completed forms will be turned in to English teachers. Additionally, students will complete a project or essay as assigned by their English Teacher.

In addition, technical programs will assign students at each grade level an article to read from Newsela. Students will be required to complete the quiz after reading the article in order to receive credit. Students sign in at <https://newsela.com/> to locate their articles.

Students entering senior year enjoyed a much simplified college application process last fall because they completed personal narrative essay that fit most college applications. As a result, we are continuing to require this essay.

There are a host of local libraries in our communities ready to serve our students. Additionally, we are including, for your convenience, a link to the Boston Public Library, as well as amazon.



**BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

Boston Public Library provides educational and cultural enrichment free to all for the residents of Boston, Massachusetts and beyond, through its collections, services, programs, and spaces. Visit <https://www.bpl.org/> for ebooks and many other services.



Amazon offers a host of reading options including Kindle e readers as well as paperback additions. <https://amazon.com>

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Grade 9 Summer Reading List

All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and/or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

**Soldier's Heart** - Gary Paulsen

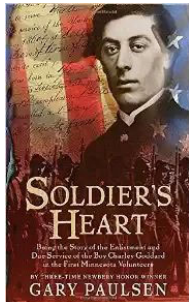
**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime** - Mark Haddon

**Peak** - Roland Smith

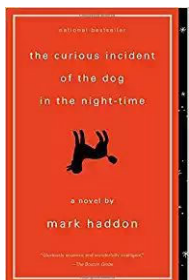
**Catch that Pass** - Matt Christopher

**The First Rule of Punk** - Celia C. Perez

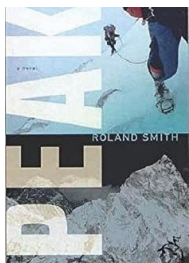
### BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



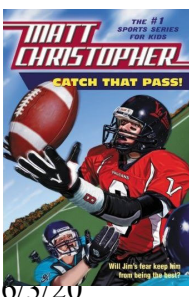
**Soldier's Heart** - *Gary Paulsen* Based on the life of a real boy, it tells the story of Charley Goddard, who lies his way into the Union Army at the age of 15. Charley has never been any place beyond Winona, Minnesota, and thinks war would be a great adventure. And it is--at first--as his regiment marches off through cheering crowds and pretty, flag-waving girls. But then comes the battle. Charley screams, "Make it stop now!" disbelieving that anything so horrible could be real. After many battles, Charley is wounded and sent home an old man before he is 20, his will to live destroyed by combat fatigue--leaving him with a "soldier's heart."



**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime** - *Mark Haddon* Christopher Boone is a mathematically-gifted autistic teenager who one night discovers the dead body of Wellington, the large poodle of his neighbor Mrs. Shears. After a misunderstanding with the police that gets him arrested, Christopher decides to solve the mystery of who killed Wellington despite his father's order to stay out of other people's business. Christopher's mother died of a heart attack two years earlier, leaving Ed the sole caregiver of his son. Christopher decides to write about this mystery for an assignment at school; the book he writes is the one we read as the novel.



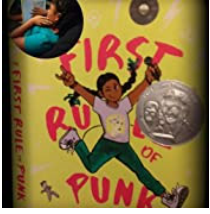
**Peak** - *Roland Smith* After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. *Big* strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit--and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.



**Catch that Pass** - *Matt Christopher* Only one thing keeps Jim from being the best linebacker in the team - his fear of getting tackled. But his friend Chuckie knows Jim isn't a coward. With Chuckie's special courage as an example, can Jim find the strength to face his fears head-on?

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Grade 9 Summer Reading List



**The First Rule of Punk - *Celia C. Perez*** There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself.

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Grade 10 Summer Reading List

All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

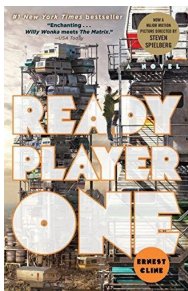
**Ready Player One** - Ernest Cline

**An Abundance of Katherines** - John Green

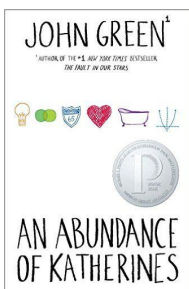
**The Wave** - Todd Strasser

**Ghost** – Jason Reynolds

### BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



**Ready Player One** - In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.



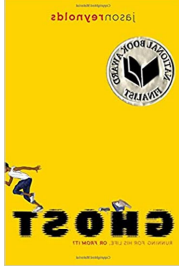
**An Abundance of Katherines** - *John Green* When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has ten thousand dollars in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight, Judge Judy-loving best friend riding shotgun—but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge Dumpees everywhere, and finally win him the girl. Love, friendship, add up to surprising and heart-changing conclusions in this ingeniously layered comic novel about reinventing oneself.



**The Wave** - *Todd Strasser (pen name Morton Rhue)* The **Wave** is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969. The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students.

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Grade 10 Summer Reading List



**Ghost – Jason Reynolds** Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Grade 11 Summer Reading List

All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

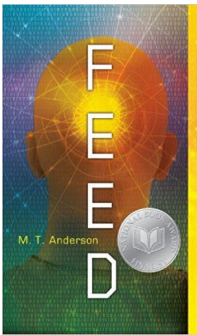
**Feed** - M.T Anderson

**The Invention of Wings** - Sue Monk Kidd

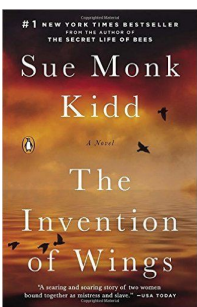
**Looking for Alaska** - John Green

**The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives** - Dashka Slater

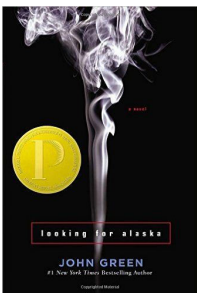
### BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



**Feed** - *M.T. Anderson* For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. Following in the footsteps of George Orwell, Anthony Burgess, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr., M. T. Anderson has created a not-so-brave new world — and a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now.



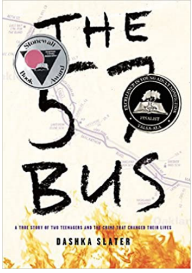
**Invention of Wings** - *Sue Monk Kidd* Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world. Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke’s daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd’s sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah’s eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, shaping each other’s destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.



**Looking for Alaska** - *John Green* First drink; First prank; First friend; First girl; Last words Miles "Pudge" Halter is abandoning his safe-okay, boring-life. Fascinated by the last words of famous people, Pudge leaves for boarding school to seek what a dying Rabelais called the "Great Perhaps." Pudge becomes encircled by friends whose lives are everything but safe and boring. Their nucleus is razor-sharp, sexy, and self-destructive Alaska, who has perfected the arts of pranking and evading school rules. Pudge falls impossibly in love. When tragedy strikes the close-knit group, it is only in coming face-to-face with death that Pudge discovers the value of living and loving unconditionally. John Green's stunning debut marks the arrival of a stand-out new voice in young adult fiction.

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Grade 11 Summer Reading List



**The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives -Dashka Slater** If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.



# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Summer Reading List: Grade 11 Advanced Placement

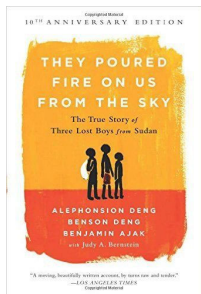
All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

**They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky** - Benson Dong, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak

**Growing Up Latina** - edited by Harold Augenbraum and Ilan Stavans

**I Tell You Now** - edited by Brian Swann and Harold Krupat

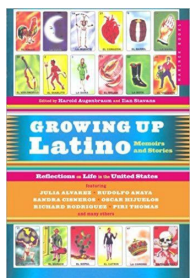
### BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



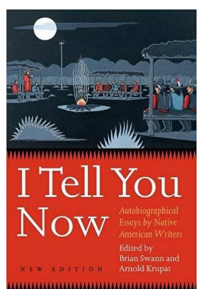
**They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky** - *Benson Dong, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak*

Between 1987 and 1989, Alepho, Benjamin, and Benson, like tens of thousands of young boys, took flight from the massacres of Sudan's civil war. They became known as the Lost Boys. With little more than the clothes on their backs, sometimes not even that, they streamed out over Sudan in search of refuge. Their journey led them first to Ethiopia and then, driven back into Sudan, toward Kenya. They walked nearly one thousand miles, sustained only by the sheer will to live. *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky* is the three boys' account of that unimaginable journey. With the candor and the purity of their child's-eye-vision, Alephonsian, Benjamin, and Benson recall by turns: how they endured the hunger and strength-sapping illnesses—dysentery, malaria, and yellow fever; how they dodged the

life-threatening predators—lions, snakes, crocodiles and soldiers alike—that dogged their footsteps; and how they grappled with a war that threatened continually to overwhelm them. Their story is a lyrical, captivating, timeless portrait of a childhood hurled into wartime and how they had the good fortune and belief in themselves to survive.



**Growing Up Latina** - *edited by Harold Augenbraum and Ilan Stavans* *Growing Up Latina* From the mean streets of the barrio to the house on Mango Street, from the Mambo Kings to the Garcia Girls, the authors who contribute to this volume transport us across geographies and through cultures in an attempt to articulate the joys, struggles, defeats, and triumphs of the Latino experience in the United States. *Growing Up Latino* offers, for the first time, a comprehensive collection of classic and recent Latino writing in English, converging in sometimes shocking, often funny, and always stirring memoirs and stories. Religion, sex, love, language, and family are some of the topics explored in this compelling anthology of fiction and nonfiction.



**I Tell You Now** - *edited by Brian Swann and Harold Krupat* *I Tell You Now* is an anthology of autobiographical accounts by eighteen notable Native writers of different ages, tribes, and areas. This second edition features a new introduction by the editors and updated biographical sketches for each writer.



# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Summer Reading List: Grade 12

All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

Additionally, all incoming grade 12 students are expected to complete the personal narrative essay - see the **Grade 12 Personal Narrative Essay Assignment** below for more details.

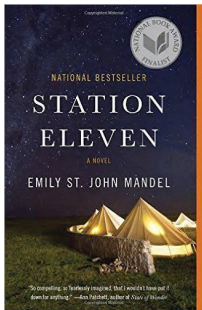
**Station Eleven** - Emily St. John Mandel

**Americanah** - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

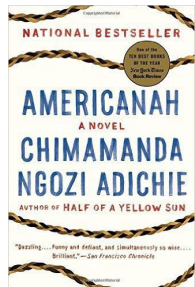
**The Living** - Matt de la Pena

**How It Went Down** - Kekla Magoon

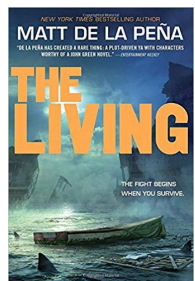
### BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



**Station Eleven - Emily St. John Mandel** Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of King Lear. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band's existence. And as the story takes off, vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all is revealed.



**Americanah - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** The bestselling novel—a love story of race and identity—from the award-winning author of *We Should All Be Feminists* and *Dear Ijeawele*. Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.

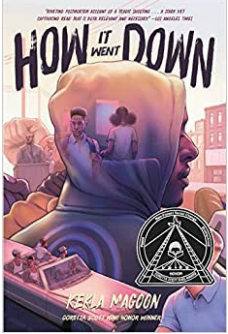


**The Living - Matt de la Peña** Shy takes the summer job to make some money. A few months on a luxury cruise liner--how bad can it be? Bikinis, free food, maybe even a girl or two . . . every cruise has a fresh crop of passengers, after all. He'll rake in the tips and be able to help his mom and sister out with the bills. But then, an earthquake more massive than any ever recorded hits California and Shy's life is changed forever. The earthquake is only the beginning. Twenty-four hours and a catastrophic chain of events later, Shy is lost at sea, fighting to survive--and stuck with her. She's blond and she's rich, and never in her life would she have dreamed she'd be adrift in the Pacific Ocean, surrounded by death and completely dependent on a guy like Shy.

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Summer Reading List: Grade 12

All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.



**How It Went Down - Kekla Magoon** When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson dies from two gunshot wounds, his community is thrown into an uproar. Tariq was black. The shooter, Jack Franklin, is white. In the aftermath of Tariq's death, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events line up. Day by day, new twists further obscure the truth.

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Summer Reading List: Grade 12 Advanced Placement

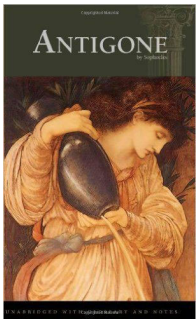
All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.

**Antigone - Sophocles**

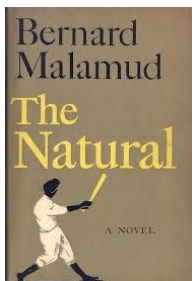
**The Natural - Bernard Malamud**

**The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck**

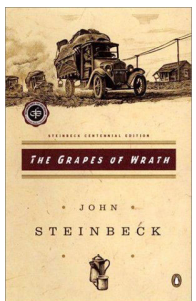
### BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:



**Antigone - Sophocles** The curse placed on Oedipus lingers and haunts a younger generation in this new and brilliant translation of Sophocles' classic drama. The daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta, Antigone is an unconventional heroine who pits her beliefs against the King of Thebes in a bloody test of wills that leaves few unharmed. Emotions fly as she challenges the king for the right to bury her own brother. Determined but doomed, Antigone shows her inner strength throughout the play. Antigone raises issues of law and morality that are just as relevant today as they were more than two thousand years ago. Whether this is your first reading or your twentieth, Antigone will move you as few pieces of literature can. To make this Greek drama more accessible to the modern reader, the Prestwick House edition of *Antigone* includes a glossary of difficult terms, a list of vocabulary words, and convenient sidebar notes.



**The Natural - Bernard Malamud** Bernard Malamud's first novel, published in 1952, is also the first—and some would say still the best—novel ever written about baseball. In it Malamud, usually appreciated for his unerring portrayals of postwar Jewish life, took on very different material—the story of a superbly gifted "natural" at play in the fields of the old daylight baseball era—and invested it with the hardscrabble poetry, at once grand and altogether believable, that runs through all his best work. Four decades later, Alfred Kazin's comment still holds true: "Malamud has done something which—now that he has done it!—looks as if we have been waiting for it all our lives. He has really raised the whole passion and craziness and fanaticism of baseball as a popular spectacle to its ordained place in mythology."

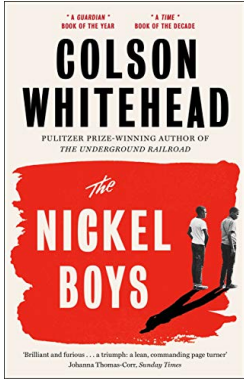


**The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck** Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity. A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America.

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Summer Reading List: Grade 12 Advanced Placement

All students must read **ONE** book from the list below. Students will **take notes** on the book - **using the attached note taking form is expected**. In the fall, students will complete a writing assignment and or a project at the discretion of the teacher.



**The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead.** Based on a real school for boys that closed in Florida in 2011 after more than one hundred years in existence, Colson Whitehead's Nickel Academy is the kind of institution that purports to rebrand bad boys into good young men. So in theory it should be a good place for Elwood, a young black man who, although he had planned to attend a nearby college, was caught unknowingly riding in a stolen car. But what happens inside Nickel Academy does not match its public image, and Elwood is about to learn that, no matter how idealistic or optimistic he is, his life is taking a very bad turn. Set in the 1960s during Jim Crow, *The Nickel Boys* is both an enjoyable read and a powerful portrayal of racism and inequality that acts as a lever to pry against our own willingness to ignore it. —*Chris Schluep*

# Nashoba Valley Technical High School

## Grade 12 Personal Narrative Essay Assignment

All students entering Grade 12 will **choose one** of the following essay prompts and respond in a clear, engaging, well-organized (multi-paragraph) essay of 450-650 words. Essays should answer the prompt completely, provide vivid details of your personal story, and demonstrate effective control of language.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their personal essay would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others

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### Rubric

**Organization and Focus** (clear main ideas and supporting details, stays on topic)

1   2   3   4   5

**Originality** (vivid details, fresh word choice, creativity, risk-taking)

1   2   3   4   5

**Writer's Voice** (consistent throughout, engaging, conveys individual personality)

1   2   3   4   5

**Freedom from Error** (spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage)

1   2   3   4   5

**Overall success** (interesting topic clearly developed; “works”)

1   2   3   4   5

**Score x 4 = Final Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

## Outlining Your Narrative

### Introduction:

Begin your paper with a <b>“hook”</b> that catches the reader’s attention and <b>set the scene</b> . Where is the event set? What time of year? How old were you when this happened?	
State your <b>thesis</b> : what you learned, or how the event is significant to you.	

### Body paragraphs: *write three significant moments from the beginning, middle, and end of the event.*

Para. 1: <b>Beginning Action</b>	Topic sentence: Detail 1:  Detail 2:  Detail 3:	<b>Note:</b> Don’t forget to <b>“Show, Don’t Tell”</b> : List sounds, smells, tastes, and textures that you remember. Your experience is your “evidence”. Use <b>transition words</b> to mark the <b>passage of time</b> .
Para 2: <b>Middle Action</b>	Topic sentence: Detail 1:  Detail 2:  Detail 3:	
Para 3: <b>End Action</b>	Topic sentence: Detail 1:  Detail 2:  Detail 3:	

### Conclusion:

<b>Analyze and reflect</b> on the actions of the story, including how the events are significant to you.	
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#### Writing Strategies to Consider

*First Person vs. Third Person* Narratives are a mode of writing in which writers often use first person perspective (“I saw”, “I did”). Check with your instructor to determine whether you can use “I” when telling your story.

*\*Verb Tense: Reporting vs. Reflecting* The events of most narratives are told in past tense: “As I hiked, I felt the warm sun on my back.” Use present tense when reflection on the events: “Now I know how unprepared I was.” Notice the change in tense in this sentence as the writer reflects on the past event, from the present.

# **Nashoba Valley Technical High School**

## **Summer Reading Note Taking Form**

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Protagonist (main character): \_\_\_\_\_

List three adjectives which describe the main character:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

List and describe other important characters below:

Identify the main setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify and describe other important settings below:

Identify and describe the protagonist's primary conflict below:

Identify the main theme of the book below:

Give 2 examples from the story which identify the theme:



List and describe five key events in the book.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.