

NISKAYUNA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear students and parents:

Although summer vacation is a time of leisure and recreation, we ask that students read throughout the months of July and August. Whether in fiction or nonfiction, students are asked by the new ELA Common Core, to “analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.” Summertime allows us to choose books we are interested in and enjoy reading them at our leisure while keeping our analytical minds active. I have provided suggestions here to help students choose books to read this summer. In September, all students will participate in classroom assignments related to their summer reading experiences.

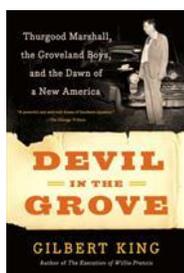
Consider reading our featured books written by NHS graduates.

Anne Blankman, Class of '97, has signed a three-book contract with Harper Collins Publishing and is now touring with her first young adult novel, *Prisoner of Night and Fog*. She will be visiting NHS next year, so be sure to read this book and be ready when the sequel comes out.



From the book jacket, “In 1930s Munich, danger lurks behind dark corners, and secrets are buried deep within the city. But Gretchen Müller, who grew up in the National Socialist Party under the wing of her “uncle” Dolf, has been shielded from that side of society ever since her father traded his life for Dolf’s, ... Uncle Dolf is none other than Adolf Hitler. And Gretchen follows his every command until she meets a fearless and handsome young Jewish reporter named Daniel Cohen. Gretchen should despise Daniel, yet she can’t stop herself from listening to his story: that her father, the adored Nazi martyr, was actually murdered by an unknown comrade. She also can’t help the fierce attraction brewing between them, despite everything she’s been taught to believe about Jews. As Gretchen investigates the very people she’s always considered friends, she must decide where her loyalties lie. Will she choose the safety of her former life as a Nazi darling, or will she dare to dig up the truth—even if it could get her and Daniel killed?”

Gilbert King, Class of '80, won the Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction in 2013 for *Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and The Dawn of a New America*. Mr. King spoke to over 300 students during his visit to NHS in March, telling us about his inquisitive and persistent approach to uncovering FBI documents revealing this untold story.



According to Harper BookSeller, “Here’s what it’s about: In 1949, in Groveland, Florida, four black men are falsely accused of rape. Soon a savage boss of a sheriff and the Ku Klux Klan are burning homes and chasing hundreds of blacks into the swamps, hell-bent on lynching the young men who came to be known as “the Groveland Boys.” Civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall comes to their defense. This new telling of the story draws on never-before-published material, including the FBI’s un-redacted Groveland case files, as well as unprecedented access to the NAACP’s Legal Defense Fund files.”

For additional assistance selecting books, talk with your friends, parents, teachers, and librarians. Take a look at these online sources, bibliographies and recommended reads.

Bibliography of High Interest Non Fiction:

<http://high.opals.nisk.k12.ny.us/bin/pf/pfView?pflid=32>

American Library Association: [YALSA Top Ten List](#) at

<http://www.ala.org/ala//mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.cfm>

The *New York Times* book reviews

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/index.html>

Continue to consult your local libraries and bookstores. Very often you will find featured books, discussion groups, volunteer openings, author signings and recommended reading titles. Go online or stop in and see what books are new and find ways to get involved in the reading community.

Remember that to grow as academic readers, it is important to read on a daily basis. I encourage you to delve into topics that interest you, take up some nonfiction text, read for pleasure. Take time to read this summer. We look forward to hearing about your reading choices when you meet your new teachers this fall.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eva L. Jones
Director of HS English/
Library Services/Assessment and Accountability

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