

John W. North High School

RECOMMENDED Summer Reading

for

Honors Introduction to Literature

First Quarter: *Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula LeGuin

Third Quarter: *The Odyssey*, Homer translated by Robert Fagle

Recommended background reading: Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*

Honors Introduction teachers will test on *Wizard of Earthsea* at the beginning of the 3rd/third week of school. Students who chose not to read over the summer will have two weeks, including two weekends, to complete *Wizard of Earthsea*. These first few weeks of high school will, of course, be a time of adjusting to new expectations and work loads and strengthening time management and organization skills, so it is highly recommended that students complete the reading in the summer at their own pace.

Some copies of the text are available from North's library for summer checkout to registered students. Teachers do recommend that, if at all possible, students purchase both *Wizard of Earthsea* and *The Odyssey*, so that they can freely annotate them and use the margins for commentary and reflective questions. This is NOT required, however. If all students do not have *The Odyssey* during third-quarter when it is taught, teachers will use the excerpts in the Holt *Introduction to Literature* textbook, rather than the full text.

Because *The Odyssey* is based on Greek mythology, students who are unfamiliar with Greek myths and legends would also benefit from reading Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* for background information.

These books are all available at local booksellers, used book stores, and public libraries. Please contact Christine Lorenzi, English Department Chair, at 788-7311, ext. 63053, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the books. We look forward to welcoming your child to North High School's honors' program.

Christine Lorenzi

