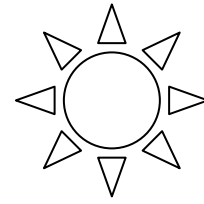


SUMMER READING 2010

Summer is a wonderful time to vacation, relax, enjoy, and, of course, **READ!** Why read, you may ask? Here are just a few reasons why everyone should read. Reading:

- improves your vocabulary
- helps you become a better writer
- helps you become a better conversationalist
- makes you smarter
- may help you learn a skill or find inspiration
- improves your concentration and focus
- takes you places you've never been
- introduces you to people you've never met
- helps you develop an imagination
- offers you new perspectives
- challenges you to ask questions
- helps you stay entertained, even in a waiting room or while commuting
- helps you understand that *MAYBE* the book is *BETTER* than the movie
- **IS FUN!** 😊



Hoping to encourage a lifelong love of reading, we've revamped the summer reading program to allow students to choose their titles.** Students are required to choose one title from the list for the grade level they'll be entering in September. Then, they read that book and come prepared the first full week of school to complete **two projects in class**. Each student will create:

1. **a book inventory** that includes a summary of characters, setting, plot, etc., and
2. **an artistic project.**

Both tasks will be explained by the teacher in September and will count as class work.

****Students in 11th AP English Language & Composition, 12th College English, and 12th AP English Literature & Composition have specific summer reading assignments and titles, which are at the end of this packet. Students can also consult their teachers.**

Below is the list of titles for each grade level, compiled to reflect diverse genres, cultures, and perspectives.

While we've fashioned the list according to appropriate levels, we do suggest parents, who best know their child's skills and interests, help their child preview and select the title. When helping your child choose the book, keep in mind the difficulty of the text and subject matter. One book is the required assignment, but feel free to read other suggested titles.

SUMMER READING 2010 – SUGGESTED TITLES

9th GRADE

9th - The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan (Fantasy)

Percy Jackson seems just another New York kid diagnosed with ADHD, who has good intentions, a nasty stepfather, and a list of schools that have rejected him. His status as a half blood offspring of a Greek god is nicely packaged, and it's easy to believe that Mount Olympus is located on the Empire State Building's 600th floor, while the door to Hades is in LA. With his new friends, a disguised satyr and the half-blood daughter of Athena, Percy sets out cross country to rectify a feud between Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon.

9th - The Wave – Morton Rhue (Fiction but based on a true story)

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. Before long "The Wave," with rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps through the entire school. As most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.

9th - A Separate Peace – John Knowles (Fiction-Narrative)

Gene was a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas was a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What terrible accident occurred between them at school one summer during the early years of World War II is the subject of *A Separate Peace*. A great bestseller for over twenty years; it is one of the most starkly moving parables ever written of the dark forces that brood over the tortured world of adolescence.

9th - The House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros (Fiction-Personal Narrative told in Vignettes)

This novel has entered the canon of coming-of-age classics sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous. It tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong to her run-down neighborhood and the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's is a young girl coming into her power, inventing for herself what she will become. *The San Francisco Chronicle* calls *The House on Mango Street* "marvelous... spare yet luminous. The subtle power of Cisneros's storytelling," done through imagery-filled vignettes, "is evident. She communicates all the rapture and rage of growing up in a modern world."

9th – Speak – Laurie Halse Anderson (Fiction Narrative)

This book is formatted with short "chapters" that allow for easy reading and discussion. Students will easily identify with characters, setting, and plot. There are several lessons about adolescence, specifically how difficult it is for high school freshmen to "fit in." It discusses issues surrounding sexual assault, and addresses feeling alone or abandoned and how to fend for oneself in a high school setting

9th - Stargirl - Jerry Spinelli (Romance)

From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with a murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with a smile and sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. Students of Mica High are enchanted at first. And then they turn on her.

9th - I, Robot – Isaac Asimov (Science Fiction)

In this novel, Asimov chronicles the development of the robot from its primitive origins to its ultimate perfection in the not-too-distant future, a future when humanity itself may be rendered obsolete. Here are

stories of robots gone mad, mind-reading robots, robots with a sense of humor, and robots that secretly run the world. It's all told with the dramatic blend of science fact and fiction that is Asimov's trademark.

9th - A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court – Mark Twain (Fantasy Fiction)

A nineteenth-century American travels back in time to sixth-century England to meet King Arthur's cast of knights in this darkly comic social satire. Twain is at his best in this fantasy fiction.

9th - A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Betty Smith (Coming-of-Age Fiction)

This is a true classic, beloved by many. Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century.

9th – The Outsiders – S. E. Hinton (Fiction)

Three brothers struggle to stay together as a family after their parents' deaths. Ponyboy Curtiss searches for his identity in the adolescent society that has classified the Socials and Greasers. Written in 1967, this novel remains current..

SUMMER READING 2010 – SUGGESTED TITLES

10th GRADE

10th - And Then There Were None – Agatha Christie (Murder Mystery)

Considered the best mystery novel ever written by many readers, this is the story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets--until they begin to die.

10th - Ender's Game – Orson Scott Card (Science Fiction)

Intense is the word for *Ender's Game*. Aliens have attacked Earth twice, almost destroying the human race. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government breeds military geniuses and trains them in the art of war. Early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of games. Ender Wiggin, genius, wins all the games. But is he smart enough to save the planet?

10th - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams (Comedic Science Fiction)

Hapless hero Arthur Dent travels the galaxy with pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue.

10th - Watership Down – Richard Adams (Allegorical Fiction)

The story follows the Berkshire rabbits fleeing destruction of their home by a land developer. Searching for safe haven, skirting danger at every turn, the band and its compelling culture are revealed. Adams has crafted a touching world in the scrub of the English countryside, complete with its own folk history and language (the book comes with a "lapine" glossary, a guide to rabbitese). As much about freedom, ethics, and human nature as it is about a bunch of bunnies looking for a warm hidey-hole and some mates.

10th - The Book Thief - Markus Zusak (Historical Fiction)

Living in Germany during WWII, young Liesel Meminger earns a meager existence for herself by stealing when she finds something she can't resist--books. Helped by her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids, learning about books' ability to "feed the soul." Narrated by Death, this is not your typical World War II story.

10th - A Child Called "It" - Dave Pelzer (Memoir)

Warning: some adult content. This is the unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother. Dave had nothing or no one to turn to, but his dreams kept him alive--dreams of someone taking care of him, loving him and calling him their son.

10th - The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things - Carolyn Mackler (Fiction)

Don't let the whimsical title fool you--although Carolyn Mackler's novel about 15-year-old Virginia Shreves is lighthearted and humorous, at its core is a serious message about self-confidence and self-acceptance.

10th - Girl with a Pearl Earring - Tracy Chevalier (Historical Fiction)

History and fiction merge seamlessly in this luminous novel about artistic vision and sensual awakening. This novel tells the story of sixteen-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius...even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil.

10th - Rebecca- Daphne du Maurier (Horror)

The second Mrs. Maxim de Winter arrives at an immense estate on the windswept Cornish coast. Here she is drawn into the life of the first Mrs. de Winter, the beautiful Rebecca, dead but never forgotten. As an eerie presentiment of evil tightens around her heart, the second Mrs. de Winter begins her search for the real fate of Rebecca.

10th - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon (Fiction – Narrative)

Warning: some adult content. Narrated by a fifteen-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions. *The New Yorker* claims, "This original and affecting novel is a triumph of empathy; whether describing Christopher's favorite dream or his vision of the universe collapsing in a thunder or stars, the author makes his hero's severely limited world a thrilling place to be." According to *The Times* (London), "This isn't simply the most original novel I've read in years...it's also one of the best."

SUMMER READING 2010 – SUGGESTED TITLES

11th GRADE

11th – Nickled and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America – Barbara Ehrenreich (Non-fiction/Investigative)

The author did some first-hand, investigative research to bring you this best-seller that reveals low-wage America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity. Instantly acclaimed for its insight, humor, and passion, this book is changing the way the nation perceives its working poor.

11th - Tuesdays with Morrie – Mitch Albom (Non-fiction/Narrative)

This true story about the love between a mentor and his pupil is a bestseller for many reasons. First, it reminds us of the gratitude many feel for the significant mentors of our past. It helps readers fantasize what it would be like to see those people again, tell them how much they meant to us and resume the mentorship. We meet Professor Morrie Schwartz, described as both biblical prophet and Christmas elf. Finally, we view intimate moments of Morrie's final days as he lies dying from a terminal illness. Even on his deathbed, this twinkling-eyed mensch teaches us about living. Albom tells this story gracefully.

11th - Big Fish - Daniel Wallace (Fiction)

Faced with the prospect of his father's death, William Bloom sets out to discover who the man really is. This magical novel is told as a series of legends and myths inspired by the few facts Bloom knows. Through hilarious, tender tall tales, Bloom begins to value his elusive father's great feats and failings.

11th - A Certain Slant of Light - Laura Whitcomb (Fiction/Romance/Mystery)

In the class of the high school English teacher she has been haunting, Helen feels human eyes looking at her for the first time in 130 years. They belong to James, a boy to whom she is mysteriously drawn. As Helen and James struggle to find a way to be together, they begin to discover the secrets of their former lives and of the young people they come to possess.

11th - The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass – Douglass (Non-Fiction/Historical Narrative)

Born in slavery in Maryland in 1817, Frederick Douglass escaped from servitude twenty years later, joined the ranks of the Abolitionists, and devoted a long and fruitful life to the winning of freedom for his people. Douglass felt that true freedom could not come for him until all Blacks were free and equal, and he gave voice and direction to the movement to achieve this goal. Told in Frederick Douglass's own words, this volume is an important work of Americana.

11th - The Natural – Bernard Malamud (Fiction/Baseball)

The classical novel, published in 1952, is also the first, and some would say still the best, novel ever written about baseball. This is the story of a superbly gifted “natural” at play in the fields of the old daylight baseball era. Alfred Kazin’s comment still holds true: “Malamud has done something which 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.”

11th - Prince of Tides – Pat Conroy (Fiction)

Conroy has created a huge, brash thunderstorm of a novel, stinging with honesty and resounding with drama. Spanning forty years, this is the story of turbulent Tom Wingo, his gifted, troubled twin sister, Savannah, and the dark, violent past of the extraordinary family to which they were born. Filled with the vanishing beauty of the South Carolina low country as well as the dusty glitter of New York City, this is Conroy's most magnificent novel yet.

11th – Angela’s Ashes – Frank McCourt (Biography/memoir)

Warning: some adult content. This novel is full of Irish wit and pathos. McCourt was born in Brooklyn, but his family went back to Ireland where he grew up on the dole exacerbated by alcoholism (his father's), near starvation, beatings by the schoolmasters, and a brief respite in clinic where he discovered Shakespeare. All of this would be merely stereotype in less capable hands, but McCourt's mastery of language manages to make us understand the gentleness, forgiveness, and humor that accompanies misery and enables its protagonists to survive with dignity.

11th - The Boy in the Striped Pajamas - John Boyne (Historical Fiction)

Boyne's novel is a gripping story of two boys--one the son of a commandant in Hitler's army and the other a Jew--who come face-to-face at a barbed wire fence that separates, and eventually intertwines their lives.

11th – The Lovely Bones – Alice Sebold (Fiction/Crime)

Warning: Some adult content. Sebold's mesmerizing first novel, a #1 national bestseller, builds a tale filled with hope, humor, suspense, and even joy, following an unspeakable tragedy. This is the story of Susie Salmon, a teenager who tells her tragic story from heaven, as she watches her family desperately try to adjust to the horror of her murder.

SUMMER READING 2010 – SUGGESTED TITLES

12th GRADE

12th - The Alchemist – Paul Coehlo – (Fiction/allegory)

Every few decades a book is published that changes the lives of its readers forever. *The Alchemist* is such a book. With over two twenty-one million copies sold worldwide, this novel has established itself as a modern classic that will enchant and inspire readers for generations to come. This is an allegorical tale that follows Santiago, a young shepherd who lives in Spain, on a journey to fulfill his personal legend and find his treasure at the Pyramids in Egypt.

12th - Wintergirls - Laurie Halse Anderson (Fiction/Self-Help)

Lia and Cassie were best friends, wintergirls frozen in matchstick bodies. But now Cassie is dead. Lia's mother is busy saving other people's lives. Her father is away on business. Her stepmother is clueless. The voice inside Lia's head keeps telling her to remain in control, stay strong, lose more, and weigh less. If she keeps going this way--thin, thinner, thinnest--maybe she'll disappear altogether. In her most emotionally wrenching, lyrically written book since *Speak*, best-selling author Laurie Halse Anderson explores one girl's chilling descent into the all-consuming vortex of anorexia.

12th - The Road – Cormac McCarthy

After an apocalyptic catastrophe, a father and his young son embark on a grim and perilous quest following the road to the sea. This novel boldly imagines a future where no hope remains, but in where father and son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it's an unflinching meditation on the worst and best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

12th - The Kite Runner - Hosseini, Khaled (Fiction/Historical)

Years after he flees Afghanistan, Amir, now an American citizen, returns to his native land and attempts to atone for the betrayal of his best friend before he fled Kabul and the Taliban. There is so much in this *New York Times* best seller: the rich culture of Afghanistan, Mideast politics, and at the core a captivating, beautifully-written story of friendship, father and son bonds, loyalty, guilt and redemption.

12th - A Thousand Splendid Suns - Hosseini, Khaled (Fiction/Historical)

A breathtaking story set against volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years, from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding. It puts the violence, fear, hope and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives struggle to survive, raise a family, and find happiness.

12th - A Lesson before Dying – Ernest Gaines

From the author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* comes a deep and compassionate novel. A young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. A disillusioned teacher, Grant Wiggins is sent into the penitentiary to help Jefferson gain a sense of dignity and self-esteem before his execution. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting.

12th - Dracula – Bram Stoker (Fiction Horror)

In 1897 Bram Stoker unleashed upon the world his masterpiece *Dracula*, which has become one of the most popular novels ever written. Inspired by the folk legend nosferatu, the undead, Stoker created a timeless tale of gothic horror and romance that has enthralled and terrified readers ever since. Count

Dracula, one of the most terrifying characters of all time, is a night-dwelling specter who feeds upon the blood of the living, and whose diabolical passions prey upon the innocent, the helpless, and the beautiful. But *Dracula* also stands as a bleak allegorical saga of an eternally cursed being whose nocturnal atrocities reflect the dark underside of the supremely moralistic age in which it was originally written.

12th - Fast Food Nation - The Dark Side of the All-American Meal: Eric Schlosser (Non-Fiction/Pop Culture)

Fast food has widened the chasm between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad. That's a lengthy list of charges, but here Eric Schlosser makes them stick with an artful mix of first-rate reportage, wry wit, and careful reasoning.

12th - The Pursuit of Happyness – Chris Gardner (Non-fiction/Personal Narrative)

Warning: Adult content. This modern day Horatio Alger story was also a *The New York Times* best seller. This is Chris Gardner's true story. He vowed that no matter what path his life would take, he would be a committed father figure to his children, unlike his own experiences with father figures. Gardner upheld that promise although he faced terrible circumstances that left him and his toddler son homeless on the streets of San Francisco.

12th - Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, & Madness at the Fair that Changed America –Eric Larson (Non-fiction/Historical)

The fate of an architect and a serial killer are linked by the greatest fair in American History: The Chicago's World's Fair Exposition in 1893. Awarded the 2004 Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime Novel.

Incoming 11th Grade Advanced Placement Language & Composition

Required Summer Reading:

- 1) *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath
- 2) *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt
and
- 3) *Inventing the Truth: The Art and Craft of Memoir* by William Zinsser, ed.

Assignment for *The Bell Jar* and *Angela's Ashes* - You are expected to "READ ACTIVELY," annotating the text, which entails underlining pertinent lines and sections and writing notes in the margins or at the end of the chapters. Please note anything that you feel is important to the story (choices and conflicts that characters face, traits of the main characters, descriptions of the setting, important events of the plot, literary devices used by authors, etc.)

Assignment for *Inventing the Truth* - Read the following selections:

- "Introduction" by William Zinsser
- "Learning to Chill Out" by Frank McCourt
- "To Fashion a Text" by Annie Dillard
- "The Site of Memory" by Toni Morrison

After reading the above selections, answer the following:

- What does Zinsser mean when he says that memoir is "how we try to make sense of who we are, who we once were, and what values and heritage shaped us?"
- How was each author inspired to tell his/her story? What process did each author go through as he/she tried to commit past experiences to paper?
- What does this teach you about the writing process?

You will be graded on the following:

1. A multiple choice quiz and essay will be given on the books and selections during the first full week of school.
2. Texts will be collected and graded for quality of annotations, and analysis responses will be graded.

Incoming 12th Grade College English

Required Summer Reading:

1) **A DOLL'S HOUSE** *by Henrik Ibsen*

and

2) **THE AWAKENING** *by Kate Chopin*

Literature often explores a main character's conflict with either another human or society as a whole. The response to these conflicts, nevertheless, reveals basic universal, human traits that all share, regardless of the time period or the location in which the story is written.

The women in both of these works are oppressed by the men in their lives and by the society around them. As you read each of these works, think about what causes the problems they encounter and how they "awaken" and resolve to change their situations.

You will be graded on the following:

1. A multiple choice quiz and essay will be given on the books during the first full week of school.

Incoming 12th Grade Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition

Required Summer Reading:

- 1) **MADAME BOVARY** by *Gustave Flaubert*
and
- 2) **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** by *Fyodor Dostoevsky*

Authors endow their characters with physical, moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferring motives and dispositions that inspire the characters' words and actions. The author may also reveal their characters' inner thoughts, feelings, and responses to social, cultural, and moral events. Often, the characters become the voice of the author relaying messages about society's ills or mankind's triumphs.

Furthermore, if characters in a fictional tale are scripted well, they can become more authentic to the public psyche than real people. While good writers give us the illusion that their characters exist, we should always remember that a character is a creation of the author.

As you read these novels, consider the complex delineation of the protagonists, as well as the societies in which they live.

You will be graded on the following:

1. A multiple choice quiz and essay will be given on the books during the first full week of school.