

# 2008 Summer Reading Assignment

## 9th Grade

English 9 students are to choose any **two** of the following; English 9 Honors students are to choose **three** of the following.

**Alas, Babylon** (Pat Frank) – A story about civilization and life after nuclear war

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** (Mildred Taylor) – This novel depicts the many dimensions of racism in the South during the 1930s. The Logans, an African-American family, struggles to keep their 400 acres during the Great Depression.

**Summer of My German Soldier** (Bette Greene) – During World War II, a young American girl falls in love with a German prisoner of war as she helps him escape.

**Ten Little Indians** – also titled **And Then There Were None** (Agatha Christie) – Mystery story of the murder of 10 strangers trapped on an island.

**Ender's Game** (Orson Scott Card) – Science fiction tale of youth being trained for interstellar war against aliens.

**The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon** (Stephen King) – On a six-mile hike on the Maine-New Hampshire branch of the Appalachian Trail, nine-year Trisha McFarland becomes lost in a wilderness maze full of peril and terror.

**The Secret Life of Bees** (Sue Monk Kidd) – Set in South Carolina in 1964, this novel tells the story of Lily Owens, a 14-year-old girl seeking the truth to her dead mother's past.

**The Book Thief** (Markus Zusak) – It is 1939, Nazi Germany. Liesel Meminger's life is changed forever when she begins to steal, hide, and save books from Nazi book-burnings.

**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (R.K. Rowling) – Book 6 in the Harry Potter series.

## Assignment for 9th Grade

You are to choose Project A for one novel you have read and Project B for the second novel you have read.

For each project, you must:

- include the title and author of the book
- draw or cut out pictures from magazines, newspapers, etc.
- include a **minimum** of eight pictures (you are encouraged to include as many as are necessary to fully explain your points)

### Project A:

1. Using pictures, create a poster on a main character from the book you have read.
2. Choose a picture that you think might physically look like this character and

place it in a prominent place on the poster. Label it with the character's name.

3. Choose pictures that illustrate character traits, situations, or experiences the character has gone through, or other items that might be important to the character, to create the rest of the poster.
4. In 1-4 sentences, tell either how the character is similar to you or how the character may be different from you. Attach this to the back of the poster.
5. Be prepared to discuss how these similarities or differences are revealed by the pictures you have chosen for your poster.

### Project B:

1. Using pictures, create a poster of the plot line (a time line of the major events of the story).
2. On the plot line, include and label the climax (high point of action) of the story.
3. Also on the poster, state the theme (or message or lesson learned from the story) in one sentence.
4. Be prepared to discuss the theme and show how one or more major events from the story contributed to your understanding of this message.

### English 9 Honors Students Only:

For your third book, on a full sheet of paper to be handed in, list:

- title and author of the book
- names of major characters (with a one sentence description)
- major events (including climax or high point)
- theme

In class, be prepared to discuss the characterization, plot, and theme of the story in more detail.

**Your projects must be handed to your English teacher on Monday, Sept. 8.**

The project will be graded, and the grade will count toward your first quarter English average. Posters and projects will not be returned to students; they will be kept on file with the English Department. If students do not complete the summer reading assignment, they will be given a grade of incomplete for the first quarter, which will be removed only if the assignment is satisfactorily completed and submitted to the teacher.

## 10th Grade

English 10 students are to choose any **two** of the following; English 10 Honors students are to choose **three** of the following.

**In the Middle of the Night** (Robert Cormier) – Years before Denny was born, his father was involved in a tragic accident. The family doesn't talk about it, but the tragedy continues to haunt the family. When Denny decides to learn more about the accident, he becomes entangled in its web.

**A Night to Remember** (Walter Lord) – The author recounts the last hours of the *Titanic* from the perspective of many of the ship's passengers.

**Rebecca** (Daphne du Maurier) – The classic story of the second Mrs. DeWinter, who followed the man she loved from Monte Carlo to his lavish country estate, Manderly. There, she is drawn into the brooding passions of a romance dead but not forgotten – for always, everywhere, is the evil, eternal presence of Rebecca.

**Where Are the Children?** (Mary Higgins Clark) – This novel is a combination of mystery and murder in a Cape Cod setting.

**Briar Rose** (Jane Yolen) – The story of Briar Rose (Sleeping Beauty) is linked to the Holocaust when a young woman promises her dying grandmother that she will return to Poland and discover the truth about her past.

**House** (Frank Peretti & Ted Dekker) – A supernatural thriller by the famous pair of Christian writers that gives new meaning to the phrase "haunted house."

**Friday Night Lights** (H.G. Bissinger) – Bissinger chronicles a season in the life of Odessa, Texas, and shows how single-minded devotion to the football team shapes the community and inspires – and sometimes shatters – the teenagers who wear the Panthers' uniform.

**Fahrenheit 451** (Ray Bradbury) – Bradbury's classic science fiction novel of censorship and defiance.

**Castaway Kid** (R.B. Mitchell) – The true story of an abandoned kid who was one of the last "lifers" in an American orphanage.

**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** (R.K. Rowling) – Book 7 in the Harry Potter series.

**Brave New World** (Aldous Huxley) – In a chilling vision of the future, babies are produced in bottles and exist in a mechanized world without soul. This is a science fiction classic.

## 11th Grade

English 11 students are to choose any **two** of the following

**The Andromeda Strain** (Michael Crichton) – A frightening situation develops when deadly extraterrestrial bacteria invade human's environment.

**Black Boy** (Richard Wright) – A sensitive and

# 2008 Summer Reading Assignment

rebellious African-American youth survives a life of poverty, familial strife, and Southern bigotry to pursue his goal of becoming a writer in the North.

**The Firm** (John Grisham) – A young law school graduate is hired by a Memphis law firm. He soon learns that things are not always as they appear to be.

**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** (Betty Smith) – Francie Nolan lives in turn-of-the-century Brooklyn where she struggles against all odds to survive and thrive.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** (Mark Haddon) – This is the story of an autistic boy's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog.

**My Sister's Keeper** (Jodi Picoult) – Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for her sister Kate – a life and role that she has never challenged ... until now. This novel is the story of one family's struggle for survival at all human costs; it raises many questions, including: where does selfishness end and self-preservation begin?

**A Raisin in the Sun** (Lorraine Hansberry) – This classic drama shows how the sudden appearance of money tears an African-American family apart.

**Into Thin Air** (Jon Krakauer) – A first-person account of an expedition to Mt. Everest that turned from dream climb to nightmare.

**Catch 22** (Joseph Heller) – In this satirical novel, Captain Yossarian confronts the hypocrisy of war and bureaucracy as he frantically attempts to survive.

**Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** (Jonathan Safran Foer) – Nine-year-old Oskar Schell lost his father in the World Trade Center collapse on September 11. He embarks on a "secret mission" to find the lock that matches a key that belonged to his father. This seemingly impossible task will bring him into contact with survivors of all sorts during this healing journey.

**What Happened** (Peter Johnson) – This novel, written by a Canisius High School graduate and set in an all-boys Buffalo high school, is an account of a car accident that unfolds slowly from the voice of an unnamed narrator.

**Dead Man Walking** (Sister Helen Prejean) – Sister Helen Prejean provides a gritty look at what happens in the final hours of a death-row inmate

## 12th Grade

English 12 students are to choose any **two** of the following.

**Bleachers** (John Grisham) – As their football coach hovers between life and death, his former players gather at their high school field and recollect the good and bad times of their lives and high school football careers.

**Farewell to Arms** (Ernest Hemingway) – Set in Italy, this is a poignant love story taking

place against the backdrop of World War I.

**The Five People You Meet in Heaven** (Mitch Albom) – A novel about heaven and earth and the five people who escort you on the journey to the afterlife.

**19 Minutes** (Jodi Picoult) – Sterling is an ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens – until the day its complacency is shattered by an act of violence.

**The Bell Jar** (Sylvia Plath) – Plath's only novel tells the story of college student Esther Greenwood, her nervous breakdown and fight to regain both her sanity and her life.

**The Great Santini** (Pat Conroy) – A novel about the Meecham family: Bull, he's all Marine, fighter pilot, king of the clouds, and absolute ruler of his family; Lillian, wife and mother, beautiful, Southern bred, with a core of velvet steel; Ben, the oldest, a born athlete whose best never satisfies his father.

**1984** (George Orwell) – The classic sci-fi novel. The year 1984 has come and gone, but Orwell's prophetic, nightmarish vision of the world we are becoming – written in 1949 – is timelier than ever.

**Native Son** (Richard Wright) – For Bigger Thomas, an African-American man accused of a crime in the white man's world, there could be no extenuating circumstances, no explanations, only death.

**In Cold Blood** (Truman Capote) – The documentary account of a 1959 murder in a small Kansas town.

**The Perfect Storm** (Sebastian Junger) – Haunting premonitions did not save seven fishermen from the ferocious and deadly power of the sea.

**The Things They Carried** (Tim O'Brien) – These stories follow a platoon of American soldiers through a variety of personal and military encounters during the Vietnam War.

## Assignment for

### 10th, 11th, & 12th Grades

In addition to completing the reading, you will be expected to keep a journal about the books you have chosen. For **each** book, you will need to complete **all seven journal entries**. The journal entries should be handwritten in a notebook – typed pages will not be accepted. Each entry (except for the vocabulary) should be 100-150 words long. The journal should contain your own original work. When discussing the book, you should use specific references to the work to indicate you have completed the reading.

The first page of your journal must contain a list of the titles and authors of the books you read.

For **each** book, you must answer all

seven journal topics:

1. Select 10 unfamiliar words from the book. Look up each word in the dictionary, copy down the definition, and write your own sentence using the word.
2. Relate an incident in the book to something you have experienced.
3. Choose what you consider to be the most significant quotation from the book. Copy the quotation and discuss its meaning. (Note: the quotation itself does not count as part of the 100-150 words.)
4. Which character did you like the most? Why? Which character did you like the least? Why?
5. Explain why you think this is an important book to read.
6. Climax is the turning point of a story; it is the pivotal point where a revelation influences the outcome of the story. Which event is the story's climax? How is this a turning point for the characters?
7. Overall, did you like the book? Why or why not?

**Your journal should be handed to your English teacher on Monday, Sept. 8.**

The project will be graded, and the grade will count toward your first quarter English average. Projects will not be returned to students; they will be kept on file with the English Department. If students do not complete the summer reading assignment, they will be given a grade of incomplete for the first quarter, which will be removed only if the assignment is satisfactorily completed and submitted to the teacher.

## AP Literature & Composition Grade 11

1. You must read **The Stranger** (Albert Camus)
2. Choose any two from the following list:  
**The Andromeda Strain** (Michael Crichton)  
**Black Boy** (Richard Wright)  
**The Firm** (John Grisham)  
**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** (Betty Smith)  
**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** (Mark Haddon)  
**My Sister's Keeper** (Jodi Picoult)  
**A Raisin in the Sun** (Lorraine Hansberry)  
**Into Thin Air** (Jon Krakauer)  
**Catch 22** (Joseph Heller)

(Continued on page 8)

# 2008 Summer Reading Assignment

## ***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close***

(Jonathan Safran Foer)

## ***What Happened*** (Peter Johnson)

### **AP Literature & Composition Grade 12**

1. You must read ***The Stranger*** (Albert Camus)
2. Choose any two from the following list:  
***Farewell to Arms*** (Ernest Hemingway)  
***19 Minutes*** (Jodi Picoult)  
***The Bell Jar*** (Sylvia Plath)  
***The Great Santini*** (Pat Conroy)  
***1984*** (George Orwell)  
***Native Son*** (Richard Wright)  
***In Cold Blood*** (Truman Capote)  
***The Perfect Storm*** (Sebastian Junger)  
***The Things They Carried*** (Tim O'Brien)

### **AP Language & Composition Grade 12**

1. You must read ***Eats Shoots & Leaves*** (Lynne Truss). Assignment – there will be a punctuation test on Monday, Sept. 8.
2. You must read ***On Writing*** (Stephen King)
2. Choose any **one** from the following list:  
***Farewell to Arms*** (Ernest Hemingway)  
***19 Minutes*** (Jodi Picoult)  
***The Bell Jar*** (Sylvia Plath)  
***The Great Santini*** (Pat Conroy)  
***1984*** (George Orwell)  
***Native Son*** (Richard Wright)  
***In Cold Blood*** (Truman Capote)

## ***The Perfect Storm*** (Sebastian Junger)

## ***The Things They Carried*** (Tim O'Brien)

### **Assignment for All AP Classes**

In AP English, our focus will be the interpretation and analysis of literature. It is assumed that you can retell the plot of a story, so the summer reading assignment will involve interpreting and analyzing the three literary works you have chosen.

For **each** book you read, you will write a book analysis. In your book analysis, you will discuss the following topics:

Section One: an introduction. This paragraph should include the author, title, and genre. It should also indicate the setting and theme of the work.

Section Two: a discussion of the author's writing style. This involves syntax (sentence structure) and diction (word choice). When thinking about the author's style, you should consider the following questions: Is the language in the book simple or complex? Why would the author write the story with this particular style? Be sure to give examples to illustrate the writing style.

Section Three: a discussion of the author's techniques. In this section, discuss three literary techniques used in the work. There are many

points to consider, and the following list cannot apply to all. (In addition, while reading, you may spot other devices that are not on this list.)

Here are some examples: What is the author's point of view, and what effect does this have? Are there any intruding narrative devices such as letters, diaries, or flashbacks? How does the reader learn about the characters? How does the setting create the atmosphere? Is there any symbolism in this story? Is there any irony present?

Section Four: a conclusion. In the conclusion, give an overall evaluation or recommendation about the work. Is it worthwhile to read? Is it a waste of time? Why? In the paper, the keys are INTERPRETATION and ANALYSIS. Do not give a plot summary. You should discuss plot only to give specific examples as they pertain to your discussion of the book's elements. When writing this paper, keep in mind that it is a formal paper written for the college level. Impress the reader with your writing ability. The writing and interpretation in your paper should be your own original work. Even though there are four specific sections to each paper, do not number your sections; make smooth transitions between sections and write the papers in an essay format.

Each paper should be **three pages typed and double-spaced**, although it may be longer if you feel the need to elaborate. **Your three papers must be turned in to your English teacher on Monday, September 8.** These papers will be used to begin our literary discussions. These papers will not be returned to the student; they will be kept on file with the English Department. The grade, which counts toward your first quarter English average, is based on your completion of the assignment, the analysis of the literary work, and the writing skill displayed in the papers. If you do not complete the summer reading assignment, you will be given a grade of incomplete for the first quarter, which will be removed only if the assignment is satisfactorily completed and submitted to the teacher.

## *A tree grows in Lancaster*

*The Lancaster Garden Club recently donated three flowering Cleveland Pear trees to St. Mary's High School as part of the tree replacement project from the October '06 storm.*

*Juniors Andrew Adolf and Joanna Cianciosa look on as Steve Wrobel waters one of the two trees that was planted in the front courtyard, on either side of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The third tree will be added very shortly.*

