

## Honors English for Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors Summer Break Reading Requirement

Summer reading is recommended for all students but those in Honors English classes will complete a required reading assignment. Taking an advanced English class is much easier for those who have maintained the habit of reading. Furthermore, reading can provide a pleasurable broadening of young people's horizons. Students who read as a source of both intellectual stimulation and overall relaxation are likely to become lifelong readers. With summer break reading, students are exposed to literature that serves both intellectual and recreational purposes. Finally, those who read throughout the year and on school vacations usually become more articulate speakers and more graceful writers, which fits the goals of the Northern High School English department.

1. Choose one book from the list below to read this summer.
2. After you read or as you read it, complete the following tasks:
  - a). a dialectical journal, using the format below **and**
  - b). one product from the list below.

3. Complete the journal and your product for your chosen novel for the course you are enrolled in (Honors Eng II, III, or IV) and bring it with you to class on the first day of school, August 25, 2011, if you are taking Honors English first semester.

\*\*\*Please note: If you are taking Honors English *second semester*, turn in your completed work to your second semester teacher on *August 25, 2011*.

### Honors English II (World Literature) —

*In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez\* (Lexile: 910)

This is the story of the four Mirabal sisters during the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. The sisters make a political commitment to overthrow the Trujillo regime. They are harassed, persecuted, and imprisoned, their family suffers retaliation from the Military Intelligence Service, and they are eventually awarded awards for their awesome leadership. The book presents the perspective of each, including the one surviving sister, Dede. Throughout the book the events leading up to each sister's political awakening are discussed.

*Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie (Lexile: 940)

In this tale, Haroun is a 12-year-old boy whose father Rashid is the greatest storyteller in a city so sad that it has forgotten its name. When the gift of gab suddenly deserts Rashid, Haroun sets out on an adventure to rescue his stories. This tale comes complete with all the trappings of a classic fairy tale, from a kidnapped princess to a magic potion to a happy ending.

*Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arther Golden\* (Lexile: 1000)

Because her mother is dying and her father old, Chiyo, nine, is sold to a wealthy geisha house in Gion where she learns and works her trade in the 1930s and 1940s.

*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton (Lexile: 860)

A Zulu country parson arrives in Johannesburg and finds that his sister has become a prostitute and his son a murderer.

*Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri (Lexile: 1050)

A debut collection of short fiction blends elements of Indian traditions with the complexities of American culture in such tales as "A Temporary Matter," in which a young Indian-American couple confronts their grief over the loss of a child while their Boston neighborhood copes with a nightly blackout.

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini (Lexile: 830)

Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in wartorn Kabul, losses incurred over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage.

*The Lady with the Little Dog, and Other Stories 1869-1904* by Anton Chekhov (Lexile: Not yet lexiled)

The story of an adulterous affair between a Russian banker and a young lady he meets while vacationing in Yalta.

### **Honors English III (American Literature) —**

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien\* (Lexile: 880)

Heroic young men carry the emotional weight of their lives to war in Vietnam in a patchwork account of a modern journey into the heart of darkness.

*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls\* (Lexile: 1010)

The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

*Blood Done Sign My Name* by Tim Tyson (Lexile: 1240)

The author returns to his hometown of Oxford, North Carolina, to make sense of the thirty-year-old murder of a black man by a Klansman, and the trial's verdict by an all-white jury.

*Raney* by Clyde Edgerton (Lexile: not yet Lexiled)

Charles and Raney Shepherd try to reconcile their conflicting viewpoints and adjust to a new life together as husband and wife.

*A Mercy* by Toni Morrison (Lexile: not yet Lexiled)

In exchange for a bad debt, an Anglo-Dutch trader takes on Florens, a young slave girl, who feels abandoned by her slave mother and who searches for love--first from an older servant woman at her master's new home, and then from a handsome free blacksmith, in a novel set in late seventeenth-century America.

*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy\* (Lexile: 670)

In a novel set in an indefinite, futuristic, post-apocalyptic world, a father and his young son make their way through the ruins of a devastated American landscape, struggling to survive and preserve the last remnants of their own humanity.

*The Last American Man* by Elizabeth Gilbert (Lexile: not yet Lexiled)

A cultural examination of the modern American male explores the meaning of manhood in all of its contradictions and challenges.

*The Brief, Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz\* (Lexile: 1010)

Living with an old-world mother and rebellious sister, an urban New Jersey misfit dreams of becoming the next J. R. R. Tolkien and believes that a long-standing family curse is thwarting his efforts to find love and happiness.

### **Honors English IV (British Literature) —**

*Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier\* (Lexile: 770)

A poor seventeenth-century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town.

*The Prestige* by Christopher Priest\* (Lexile: not yet Lexiled)

In 1878, two young stage magicians clash in a darkened salon during the course of a fraudulent seance, and from this moment they try to expose and outwit each other at every turn.

*Atonement* by Ian McEwan\* (Lexile: not yet Lexiled)

Three children lose their innocence--as the sweltering summer heat bears down on the hottest day in 1935--and their lives are changed forever.

*About a Boy* by Nick Hornby\* (Lexile: not yet Lexiled)

Will trades his lack of enthusiasm toward children for a date with a truly beautiful woman who is also a single mother.

*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro\* (Lexile: )

A reunion with two childhood friends--Ruth and Tommy--draws Kath and her companions on a nostalgic odyssey into the supposedly idyllic years of their lives at Hailsham, an isolated private school in the serene English countryside, and a dramatic confrontation with the truth about their childhoods and about their lives in the present.

*Teacher Man* by Frank McCourt (Lexile: 920)

The author describes his coming of age as a teacher, storyteller, and writer, a personal journey during which he spent fifteen years finding his voice in the classroom, and came to terms with the undervalued importance of teaching.

*Good-bye to All That* by Robert Graves\* (Lexile: not yet Lexiled)

This autobiography traces the monumental and universal loss of innocence that occurred as a result of the First World War. Tracing his upbringing from his solidly middle-class Victorian childhood through his entry into the war at age twenty-one as a patriotic captain in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, this dramatic, poignant, often wry autobiography goes on to depict the horrors and disillusionment of the Great War, from life in the trenches and the loss of dear friends, to the stupidity of government bureaucracy and the absurdity of English class stratification.

*Lady Audley's Secret* by Elizabeth Mary Bradden (Lexile: not yet Lexiled)

Murder, mystery, mistaken identity, madness, bigamy, adultery. Lady Audley looks like the angel-in-the-house ideal of Victorian womanhood-she is blonde, fragile, and childlike-but her behavior is distinctly villainous. At a time when Victorian women were beginning to rebel against their limited roles as wives and mothers, novels such as *Lady Audley's Secret* spoke to their secret longings and fantasies.

\* - Contains mature content

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Dialectical Journals for Summer Reading

Directions: As you read your summer reading book, write down important quotations in the first column, including the page number, then respond to the quotation in the second column. Your response can be anything the quotation causes you to think. In the third column, add analysis/commentary. What does this quotation illustrate about important themes and ideas in the book? Make sure to have the following number of entries in your journal:

**Seniors:** 20 entries; **Juniors and Sophomores:** 15 entries.

Example:

Quotation:	Response:	Analysis:
"He was positively going now for a 'rehearsal' of his project, and at every step his excitement grew more and more violent" (3).	I wonder why he is so excited, and I wonder what is causing his excitement to be violent.	So far this book has been dark and ominous—predicting that Raskolnikov's purposes are dark and ominous. The "rehearsal" of his project could be the rehearsal of a deadly crime.

\*This example is taken from Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, a book not on the summer reading list for any grade level. Use the following format, repeating until you have 20 entries.

Quotation:	Response:	Analysis:
Quotation:	Response:	Analysis:

## Honors English – Product Choices

1. **Mixed CD** – Imagine that your book is to be made into a movie. You are to design the soundtrack. Create a CD containing soundtrack to match your book. Instrumental music is allowed. Design your own CD insert and include it in the case with the CD. Choose the songs thoughtfully and carefully to match the book's plot, themes, symbols, tone, and situations. Include a paragraph for each song, identifying the artist and title of the song and explaining how the music relates to the book. **Seniors: 15 songs; Juniors: 12 songs; Sophomores: 10 songs.**
2. **Scrapbook** – Create a scrapbook for one of the main characters that reflects the many events that happen to him or her in the novel you read. You can include photos that show important events in the character's life, letters, post cards, telegrams, a family tree, newspaper clippings, memorable items, or anything else you can think of that you might find in a scrapbook. Be sure to write captions describing what they are or what's going on and their significance to the character. Create a nice cover for the scrapbook and, on the inside, paste an information sheet identifying the character's full name, age, address and any other important information.
3. **Container Book Report** – Choose any container for your book project—a manila envelope, paper bag, plastic bag, coffee can with a cover, a box, or any other container that you can imagine. Be creative! Decorate the container with details appropriate to the book or container's contents. On the inside of the container, enclose several artifacts or physical items that symbolize the story in some way and write a paragraph description for each item that articulates why you chose the item and why it is significant to the novel. **Seniors: 12 items; Juniors: 10 items; Sophomores: 7 items.**