

Summer Reading 2011-2012

ENGLISH 12 CP

Students enrolled in English 12 CP MUST read two works from the titles listed below.

A writing assessment will be given to students in first semester classes on one novel by the end of September 2011. Other assessment(s) will be given by mid-October 2011 and will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher. These assessments could be in the form of a review, literary analysis, discussion, project, or objective test.

For students in 2nd semester classes, a similar assessment schedule will be announced at that time. Since you will not be tested until January or February of the 2011-12 school year, you might want to wait until the holiday break to read those novels you wish to use for testing.

The Alchemist: A Fable about Following Your Dream -- Paulo Coelho -- A mystical novel of a Spanish shepherd boy seeking his destiny. Enjoyable and easy to read, this fantasy validates the aspirations and dreams of youth.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier -- Ishmael Beah -- Beah was just 12 when civil war ripped apart Sierra Leone and killed his parents and brothers. He became one of tens of thousands of child soldiers and this disturbing memoir tells how he survived almost three years of hell.

Chosen by a Horse -- Susan Richards -- a fantastic, must-read for all animal-lovers! A memoir about an emotionally hardened woman and a horse she takes into her home.

Drowning Ruth – Christina Schwarz – A gripping psychological thriller that begins in the winter of 1919 when a young mother, Mathilda Neumann, drowns beneath the ice of a Wisconsin lake. The shock of her death dramatically changes the lives of her daughter, troubled sister, and husband.

Genghis: Birth of an Empire or ***Genghis: Lords of the Bow***--Conn Iggulden -- Historical fiction about the Great Khan... shaped by a series of brutal acts he endured and his singular fury to survive in the face of death, to kill before being killed, and to conquer enemies.

The Glass Castle: A Memoir (Alex Awards) – Jeannette Walls – This memoir opens by Walls looking out the window of her taxi, wondering if she's "overdressed for the evening" and spotting her mother on the sidewalk, "rooting through a dumpster." Her mom used to say that "being homeless is an adventure," and in this extraordinary story, Walls recalls her nomadic life with surprising affection.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society—Mary Ann Schaffer & Ann Barrows--The letters comprising this small charming novel begin in 1946 when the country was recovering from the effects of the long war years. IT manages to offer wonderful well rounded characters, a genuine sense of historic time and geographic place, some real inspiring stories of courage under hardship during World War II and a sweet love story.

Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan—Doug Stanton - In this riveting account, full of horror and raw courage, Stanton recreates the miseries and triumphs of specially trained mounted U.S. soldiers, deployed in the war-ravaged Afghanistan mountains to fight alongside the Northern Alliance--thousands of rag-tag Afghans who fought themselves to exhaustion or death-against the Taliban.

Into Thin Air -- Jon Krakauer – A true adventure stories about a riveting account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest.

It's Not about the Bike: My Journey Back to Life or ***Every Second Counts*** – Lance Armstrong and Sally Jenkins -- People around the world have found inspiration in the story of Lance Armstrong--a world-class athlete nearly struck down by cancer, only to recover and win the Tour de France, and gain celebrity status.

A Thousand Splendid Suns – Khaled Hosseini -- Hosseini manages to provide an educational and eye-opening account of Afghanistan's political turmoil while also developing characters whose heartbreaking struggles and emotional triumphs resonate with readers.

The Lost Symbol -- Dan Brown-- The novel begins with an ancient ritual, a shadowy enclave, and, of course, a secret. Brilliant Harvard professor Robert Langdon finds himself in a predicament that requires his vast knowledge of symbology and superior problem-solving skills to save the day. As with other Dan Brown books, the pace is relentless and the revelations many.

The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards—This novel is a riveting page-turner whose plot unfolds over the course of 25 years and tells a moving story of two families bound by a secret.

Odd Thomas, Forever Odd, Brother Odd or the new ***Odd Hours*** -- or another novel by Dean Koontz, who is aptly known for his thrillers and page-turners; Koontz's *Odd Thomas* is not a detective, but a quiet, young man who sees ghosts and helps the police chief of his desert town solve crimes.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower – Stephen Chbosky – Charlie, a freshman, is not the biggest geek in school but by no means is popular. He's a wallflower—shy, introspective, and intelligent beyond his years. We learn about Charlie through his letters as he shares his day-to-day thoughts and feelings.

Playing for Pizza or another novel not make into a movie by John Grisham -- NFL veteran Rick Dockery is the quarterback for the Parma Panthers. After single-handedly destroying the Cleveland Browns' chance to win an AFC title, he was fired and run out of the NFL. Playing in Italy is his only option. Football fans will definitely find this book entertaining!

Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life or another book by Tony Dungy-- His words and example have intrigued millions of people, particularly following his victory in Super Bowl XLI, the first for an African American coach. In this inspiring and reflective memoir, Coach Dungy tells the story of a life lived for God and family—and challenges us all to redefine our ideas of what it means to succeed.

Rescuing Sprite: A Dog Lover's Story of Joy and Anguish -- Mark R. Levin –This book is about a stunningly intimate look at the love between a family and a dog. Sprite taught his family to better appreciate the simple and important things in life.

Skeletons on the Zahara: A True Story of Survival—Dean King -- When the American cargo ship Commerce ran aground on the northwestern shores of Africa in 1815, the misfortunes that befell the crew came fast and hard, from enslavement to reality-bending bouts of dehydration. This account of the crew's ordeal reads like historical fiction, with unbelievable stories of the seamen's endurance of heat stroke, starvation and cruelty by their Saharan slavers.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan – Lisa See – In this beautiful, heartbreaking story, readers will experience life in a remote 19th-century Chinese village, where women spend their days in upstairs chambers, experience the horrors of foot binding, kowtow to elders, serve tea and communicate in nu shu.

What Every Leader Needs To Know-- by leadership expert John C. Maxwell-- an easy-to-read, small book that states that ethics is not complicated. Maxwell explains: "Ethics is ethics. If you desire to be ethical, you live by one standard across the board...Educators, philosophers, theologians, and lawyers have taken what is a simple matter and made it very confusing...This book's goal is to help you find the way to live and work ethically and also achieve greater success."

The Weight of Silence -- Heather Gudenkauf – a can't put down book about Callie, a selective mute, and Petra, Callie's best friend, who acts as Callie's voice. The two girls go missing, and from there the story takes you on a series of twists and turns that will keep you at the edge of your seat.

A book from ***The Wolves at Mercy Falls Series (Shiver, Linger and Forever)***—Maggie Stiefvater-- Interesting stories of alienated werewolves and first loves. Perfect novels for *Twilight* fans or a Romeo and Juliet list. They are intense, riveting, and very satisfying.