

June 2011

Dear Parents,

Once again the Wallenpaupack Area High School is encouraging students to read over the summer. Our hope is that students will engage in reading that will capture their interests and generate enthusiasm.

The importance of a strong family commitment to reading cannot be over-emphasized. Students who develop and nurture the reading habit not only discover one of life's greatest pleasures, they also increase their own fluency with language and generally perform significantly better on standardized examinations such as the PSSA and the SAT.

We hope that you will encourage your child to read, will help select a book from the following list that best meets his/her needs, and will share the reading experience with your child.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

The W.A.H.S. English Department.

***Mrs. Donnamarie Finney***

English Chairperson

# Summer Reading 2011-2012

## ENGLISH 9 CP and Honors

Students enrolled in English 9 Honors MUST read 2 novels from the following list.

Students enrolled in English 9 CP MUST read one work from the titles listed below.

A writing assessment will be given to all students on one novel by the end of September 2011.

For those students required to read more than one novel, the assessment(s) will be given by mid-October 2011 and will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher. This assessment 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 Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* -- Sherman Alexie – Heartbreaking and funny, this book tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist on the Spokane Indian Reservation who is determined to take his future into his own hands.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* -- Mark Twain -- Join Tom Sawyer and his best friend, Huck Finn, as they share wild adventures along the banks of the Mississippi River.

*The Apostle*--Brad Thor-- At the start of this bestseller, Robert Alden, the new and naïve U.S. president, has just taken office with a landslide victory, due mainly to the assistance of strategist Stephanie Gallo, who "delivered the mainstream media for him on a silver platter." When Gallo's daughter, a doctor working in Afghanistan, is kidnapped, Gallo turns to Alden for help, and he, in turn, calls on Harvath, a former Navy SEAL and intelligence operative. Thus Harvath must carry out his tricky assignment without official sanction as the plot thickens.

*Artemis Fowl* or another book in the series -- Eoin Colfer -- Fantastic stuff from beginning to end, this series is a combination of folklore, fantasy, and high-tech that could well do for fairies what Harry Potter did for magic.

*Bayou*-- Jeremy Love --South of the Mason-Dixon Line lies a strange land of gods and monsters; a world born from centuries of slavery, civil war, and hate. Lee Wagstaff is the daughter of a black sharecropper. When Lily Westmoreland, her white playmate, is snatched by agents of an evil creature known as Bog, Lee's father is accused of kidnapping. Lee's only hope is to follow Lily's trail into this fantastic and frightening alternate world. Along the way she enlists the help of a benevolent, blues singing, swamp monster called Bayou. Together they trek across a Southern Neverland in an effort to rescue Lily and save Lee's father from being lynched. If you like this one you might want to read *Bayou Vol. 2* too.

*Born Blue* -- Han Nolan -- The hard-hitting story of a girl who searches for love and security despite the roadblocks in her way--a gritty story that inspires understanding, tolerance, and compassion. (National Book Award)

*Born Confused* – Tanuja Desai Hidier—Dimple has spent years rebelling against her parents and their Indian customs. However, now everything from India is suddenly hip, and Dimple's parents are trying to set her up with a "suitable" boy.

*Dairy Queen* or another novel by Catherine Murdock – 15 year old D.J. lives in Red Bend, Wisconsin, in a family in which all the boys play football, but she's a basketball star. When her father breaks his hip, D.J. must give up sports to work the farm. During that summer, she trains the quarterback from rival Hawley High and discovers that football is her passion.

***Eragon, Eldes, or Brisingr*** -- Christopher Paolini -- Paolini creates memorable characters in a detailed fantasy world in this tale about Eragon, a teenager who is newly homeless and uncertain of his ancestry, but meets his destiny head on.

***The Good Thief*** -- Hannah Tinti -- Twelve-year-old Ren is missing his left hand. How it was lost is one of the mysteries that Ren has been trying to solve his entire life -- as well as who his parents are, and why he was abandoned as an infant at Saint Anthony's Orphanage for boys. A young man named Benjamin Nab appears, claiming to be Ren's long-lost brother, and the orphanage releases the boy to him. But is Benjamin really who he says he is?

***How I Live Now***—Meg Rosoff – One of the most talked about books of the year, this riveting novel paints a frighteningly realistic picture of a world war breaking out in the 21st century. Told from the point of view of 15-year-old Daisy, the novel follows her arrival and her stay with cousins on a remote farm in England.

***Knights of the Hill Country*** – Tim Tharp -- This unforgettable novel is the story of a boy whose choices will decide the kind of man he becomes, and raises powerful questions about sportsmanship, loyalty, and the deceptiveness of legends.

***Looking For Alaska*** – John Green -- Sixteen-year-old Miles Halter is bored, lonely, and unchallenged, so he decides to leave his family home in Florida for the Culver Creek boarding school in Alabama. This novel, which captures the angst of teen life, was the winner of the American Library Association Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature.

***The Rules of Survival*** -- Nancy Werlin – In this story of survival fifteen-year-old Matthew and 13-year-old Callie try to protect their 7-year-old sister, Emmy, from the unpredictable rages and cruelties of their mother.

***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie: A Flavia de Luce Mystery***-- Alan Bradley-- This wickedly brilliant first novel introduces one of the most singular and engaging heroines in recent fiction: eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce. It is the summer of 1950 -- and a series of inexplicable events has struck Buckshaw, the decaying English mansion that Flavia's family calls home. A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath. If you like this one try the next in the series- ***The Weed That Strings the Hangman's Bag: A Flavia de Luce Mystery***.

***Thirteen Reasons Why***—Jay Asher-- When Clay Jenson plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. He's one of 13 people who receive her story. The message about how we treat one another makes for compelling reading.

***Tiki: My Life in the Game and Beyond*** – Tiki Barber -- Tiki played for the New York Giants as a tailback from 1997 to 2006, ending his career with over 10,000 yards rushing and 5,000 yards receiving. In this book Tiki takes the opportunity to talk about his life experiences.

***Unwind***—Neal Shusterman—(science fiction) In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system before it “unwinds” them.

***West Side Story*** -- Irving Shulman -- Maria was young and innocent and had never known love -- until Tony. But Maria's brother, Bernardo and Tony are in rival gangs who claim the same turf.

***You Don't Know Me***—David Klass-- The 14-year-old narrator describes the physical and emotional abuse he experiences from his mother's boyfriend. In this well thought out novel, the hero's underlying sense of isolation and thread of hope will strike a chord with nearly every adolescent. (a male version of ***Speak***)