

May, 2011

Dear Future Freshman English students,

Welcome to the high school and best wishes for an exciting and rewarding year with us. Since reading provides immeasurable pleasure, assists students in all their studies, and improves scores in standardized testing, we urge you to read widely over the summer. To prepare you for the specific demands of Freshman English and Western civilization, we require you to read two books.

Requirement #1:

THE ALCHEMIST: A Fable about Following Your Dreams by Paulo Coelho

As you read this short novel, we ask that you **choose 3 golden lines**, lines that inspire you or strike you as significant, and write these down. In addition, when you finish the novel, **make a list of elements** in the story that strike you as typical of myth, fairy-tale, or story-telling in general. For example, the *Harry Potter* series showcases the classic conflict between good versus evil, a wise old man, and the hero on a quest. **Bring your lines and list to class the first week of school.**

Requirement #2:

Read ONE other book from the following list on the back of this page. Some books relate to topics we will cover during freshman year (such as the Holocaust, the Middle Ages, myth, Classical Greece), but you may choose *anything* from the list.

Be prepared to write about your second book during the first week of school.

We encourage you to challenge yourself. Consider reading more than one book from the list!

Sincerely,

Wilton High School English Department



Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing. ~Harper Lee



Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read. ~Groucho Marx



Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labeled "This could change your life." ~Helen Exley

FICTION

NONFICTION

<i>The Red Tent</i> ⁺	Diamant	The Year of Living Biblically ⁺	Jacobs
<i>The Girl with the Pearl Earring</i> ⁺	Chevalier	Shakespeare: The World as Stage ⁺	Bryson
<i>Year of Wonders</i> ⁺	Brooks	Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea ⁺	Cahill
<i>East of Eden</i> ⁺	Steinbeck	Mysteries of the Middle Ages ⁺	Cahill
<i>The Bull from the Sea</i> ⁺	Reanault	Stiff	Roach
<i>The Crystal Cave</i> ⁺	Stewart	Blink	Gladwell
<i>The Sword and the Stone</i> ⁺	White	Freakonomics or Superfreakonomics	Levitt
<i>The Golden Compass</i> ^{*+}	Pullman	Into Thin Air	Krakauer
<i>The Wave</i> ^{*+}	Strasser	Marley and Me [*]	Grogan
<i>Unwind</i> [*]	Shusterman	The Radioactive Boy Scout [*]	Silverstein
<i>Pillars of the Earth</i> ⁺	Follett	A Walk in the Woods [*]	Bryson
<i>The DaVinci Code</i> ⁺	Brown	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	Kamqamba and Mealer
<i>Ender's Game</i>	Card	Three Cups of Tea	Mortenson
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	Smith		
<i>The Bell Jar</i>	Plath		
<i>Persepolis (graphic novel)</i>	Satrapa		
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Hosseini		
<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> [*]	Alexie		
<i>Twisted</i> [*]	Anderson		
<i>Wintergirls</i>	Anderson		
<i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i> [*]	Asher		
<i>The Good Thief</i>	Tinti		
<i>The First Part Last</i>	Johnson		
<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Collins		
<i>I Kill Giants</i>	Kelly		

*Represents books that are quick reads.

+Represents books that relate to the Freshman English/Western Civilization Curriculum.