

Summer Reading for Students Entering 10th Grade 2011-2012

You are required to read **two books** this summer, one fiction and one non-fiction, to prepare for the sophomore English course, *American Experience*. These texts address important topics that appear in this year-long course's curriculum but are also exciting new books that tell provocative stories.

While you will not be required to take notes, the questions below should guide your reading. You will be writing about these books when you return to school, so please read these books as thoroughly as possible.

Choose one of these two non-fiction books:

- *All Over But the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg
- *The House at Sugar Beach* by Helene Cooper

Choose one of these two fiction books:

- *Montana 1948* by Larry Watson
- *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving

Questions to Guide Your Reading (and that will help prepare you for CAPT):

- What are your thoughts and questions about this story? You might reflect on the characters, their problems, the author's use of symbolism, the title, or other ideas in the story.
- Describe how the main character has changed through the story. Support your thinking with details from the story.
- What does this book say about people or life in general (theme)? In what ways does it remind you of people you have known or experiences you have had? You may also write about stories or books you have read, or movies, works of art, or TV programs you have seen.
- How successful was the author in creating a good piece of literature?

Enjoy your summer and your summer reading. We look forward to your ideas about these books!

WHS English Department