

May, 2009

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.

**Requirement #2:**

**Read ONE other book from the following list on the back of this page.**

We encourage you to explore other texts this summer just for fun!

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

## Books for Requirement #2 (These relate to units of study during freshman year.)

TITLE	AUTHOR	RELATES TO UNIT
<b>Fiction</b>		
<i>The Red Tent</i>	Diamant	Bible
<i>The Girl With the Pearl Earring</i>	Chevalier	Renaissance
<i>Year of Wonders</i>	Brooks	Plague
<i>East of Eden</i>	Steinbeck	Myth, Archetypes
<i>The Bull from the Sea</i>	Renault	Myth, Archetypes
<i>The Crystal Cave</i>	Stewart	Myth, Archetypes
<i>The Sword and the Stone</i>	White	Myth, Archetypes
<i>The Golden Compass*</i>	Pullman	Myth, Archetypes
<i>The Wave *</i>	Strasser	Holocaust
<i>Milkweed *</i>	Spinelli	Holocaust
<i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*</i>	Boyne	Holocaust
<i>Age of Bronze (graphic novel)*</i>	Shanower	Greece / Trojan War
<i>The Book Thief</i>	Zusak	Holocaust
<i>Penelopiad</i>	Atwood	Trojan War
<b>Nonfiction</b>		
<i>The Year of Living Biblically</i>	Jacobs	Bible
<i>Walking the Bible (parts 1 &amp; 2)</i>	Feiler	Bible
<i>Shakespeare: The World as Stage</i>	Bryson	Shakespeare
<i>Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea</i>	Cahill	Greece
<i>Mysteries of the Middle Ages</i>	Cahill	Middle Ages

## For your consideration: Interesting/ Fun Summer Reads

### Fiction

*Pillars of the Earth*  
*The Secret Life of Bees*  
*The DaVinci Code*  
*Ender's Game*  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*  
*The Bell Jar*  
*Persepolis (graphic novel)*  
*The Kite Runner*  
*The Absolutely True Diary  
of a Part-Time Indian\**  
*Twisted\**  
*Thirteen Reasons Why\**  
*The Good Thief*  
*The First Part Last*

Follett  
Kidd  
Brown  
Card  
Smith  
Plath  
Satrapi  
Hosseini  
Alexie  
Anderson  
Asher  
Tinti  
Johnson

### Nonfiction

*The Professor and the Madman*  
*Stiff*  
*Blink*  
*Freakonomics*  
*Into Thin Air*  
*Marley and Me\**  
*The Radioactive Boy Scout\**  
*A Walk in the Woods\**

Winchester  
Roach  
Gladwell  
Levitt  
Krakauer  
Grogan  
Silverstein  
Bryson

\* Represent books that are quick reads.

## Summer Reading for Students Entering 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Dear future sophomores at Wilton High School,

As you prepare to enter 10<sup>th</sup> grade, we want you to have the most successful year possible. Over the summer you are required to read 2 of the 3 books listed below (you choose which two) in preparation for the American Experience course. These texts not only 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, keep in mind the important questions below as you read. (Some of these questions are good preparation for the CAPT test which you will take in the spring!) You will be writing about your summer reading when you return to school, so please read these books carefully.

*\*All Over but The Shouting*, Rick Bragg  
*\*The Namesake*, Jhumpa Lahiri  
*\*Montana 1948*, Larry Watson

### **QUESTIONS:**

- 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 think about connections to 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 hearing your ideas about these books!

Sincerely,

Wilton High School English Department