

Beacon Summer Reading for English 2010

In the interest of forming a sense of community through the summer reading, **all students from each grade level must read a "Grade-Wide Book"** (for seniors, this will be specific to the English course being taken in the fall semester). Upon our return to school in the fall, the English department will offer activities that will foster discussion within each grade level. While you do not have a written assignment for summer reading, you will be held accountable for your reading during the first week of classes. Make sure you read and are prepared to reflect or report on your reading the first day of classes in September.

In addition to reading the "Grade-Wide Book," all students are encouraged to read a variety of other books as well. The English department has put together a selection of books that represent a variety of subjects, styles, and levels, and that includes books that have been read and enjoyed by Beacon students in the past. Please see the back of this page for the list.

GRADE-WIDE BOOKS:

Rising 9th Graders: *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt

Rising 10th Graders: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

Rising 11th Graders: *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides

Rising 12th Graders: Each senior should check the portal, mid-summer, for your assigned class' reading.

Be an Active Reader!

Consider the following as you read:

- Themes and motifs
- Context (time, place, setting, historical background)
- Characterization
- Narrative structure
- Language (tone, style, perspective...)

Helpful Reading Strategies to use as you read:

- **Visualize** (Make the movie in your mind!)
- **Predict** (Before turning the page, think about what might happen next.)
- **Question** (Talk to the book. Ask questions as you read to keep yourself engaged and active.)
- **Review** (Now and then, summarize a section you just read to check that you're reading attentively.)
- **Connect** (Make connections from text to text, text to self, text to others.)
- **Use Post-Its!** (as you are reading, mark passages that strike you as especially significant or poignant, briefly writing down on the Post-It why you thought so. This will help you to deal with the essay in September.)

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING

In addition to the required grade-level book, you are encouraged to select books from the list below to read over the summer. The books below represent an array of content, genres, and reading levels, so read about the selections online and/or browse through them at your local bookstore or library to get a better idea of the styles and themes.

Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister by Gregory Maguire
Flying over 96th Street: Memoir of an East Harlem White Boy by Thomas Webber
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende
Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
On the Road by Jack Kerouac
Even Cowgirls Get the Blues by Tom Robbins
Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 by Anna Deavere Smith
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown
The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
The Alienist by Caleb Carr
White Teeth by Zadie Smith
Blink by Malcolm Gladwell
Blindness by Jose Saramago (Giovanni Pontiero, translator)
Metamorphoses: A Play by Mary Zimmerman
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri
Life of Pi by Yann Martel
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel
Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid
A Passage to India by E.M. Forster
The Yiddish Policemen's Union by Michael Chabon
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
The Unbearable Lightness of Being by Milan Kundera
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
Waiting by Ha Jin
The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Some ideas for making summer reading interesting and relevant:

- Read the same book as a friend or family member so you have someone with whom to discuss your reactions and questions
- Start a mini book club with your friends and meet up to discuss the books you are reading
- Read a fictional book that connects to your history summer reading book and make connections
- Read a book that has been adapted for stage or screen, then see the adaptation and make comparisons

This is just a small selection of literature that is out there for your enjoyment over the summer. Visit your local bookstore or library to browse and get suggestions. Happy Reading!