

**Stoughton High School
English Department
Suggested Summer Reading List
For ALL students entering grades 9-12 in 2008-2009**

Reading is a skill that gives you knowledge and pleasure throughout your life. To meet a wide range of student interests and abilities, the attached list of titles identifies some of the “classics” representing our literary heritage, as well as contemporary fiction, nonfiction, biography and poetry. This list was compiled from suggestions made by students and teachers at SHS, and from other area high schools, as well as from lists of authors suggested by colleges, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Massachusetts Department of Education English Language Arts Framework. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather is meant to be a reference for you to use as a starting point for your summer reading. Whether you decide to read for extra credit or not, you should take time to read during the summer. Besides being an enjoyable pastime, well-developed reading skills are the key to success on standardized tests, such as the **S.A.T.** and the **MCAS**. We encourage you to share this list with your parents and to discuss your reading with them.

If you wish to receive **EXTRA CREDIT** towards your first term average in English, complete the attached journal for any of the listed works in these pages. If you have more than one English course, the journal may be applied to only one course. Each journal will be one test grade. The grade(s) will be averaged with other first quarter test grades.

The journal must be signed by your parent or guardian acknowledging that the work is your own, and turned in no later than the second class meeting.

Students Entering Grades 9 & 10

One or more of the following books may be selected for summer reading. You may also select from the grade 11-12 list. Students are to keep a journal for each book read. (See attached instructions for completing the journal). Each journal will count as one test grade for first term. This work is due no later than the second class meeting.

- Alexie, Sherman – The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian - fiction
- Adams, Douglas - Restaurant at the End of the Universe – fiction
- Alvarez, Julia - How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents - fiction
- Angelou, Maya - Poems – poetry
- Baldacci, David - Wish You Well - fiction
- Brooks, Terry - Elfstones of Shannara - fantasy
- Brooks, Terry – The Sword of Shannara - fantasy
- Christie, Agatha - Dead Man’s Folly - fiction
- Cisneros, Sandra - House on Mango Street - fiction
- Clark, Mary Higgins - Anastasia Syndrome - fiction
- Crutcher, Chris - The Crazy Horse Electric Game – fiction
- DeBrusk, Skip - Codfish, Dogfish, Mermaids & Frank - nonfiction
- Draper, Sharod - Romiette and Julio – contemporary fiction
- Haddon, Mark - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time - fiction
- Hamill, Pete - Snow in August - fiction
- Hillerman, Tony - Blessing Ways - fiction
- King, Stephen - Eyes of the Dragon - fiction
- Lansing, Alfred - Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Journey - nonfiction
- L’Engle, Madeline - The Arm of the Starfish - fiction
- Mazer, Harry - When the Phone Rang - fiction
- McCullers, Carson - The Heart is a Lonely Hunter – fiction
- Mikaelsen, Ben - Touching Spirit Bear - fiction
- Morey, Walt - Death Walk – fiction
- Robinson, Bradley- Dark Companion: The Story of Matthew Henson – biography
- Staples, Suzanne - Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind - fiction
- Sutcliff, Rosemary - The Light Beyond the Forest – fiction
- Tolkien, J.R.R. – The Silmarilion - fantasy

Students Entering Grades 11-12

One or more of the following books may be read. To earn extra credit, keep a journal for each book read. (See attached instructions for completing the journal.) Each journal will count as one test grade for first term. This work is due no later than the second class meeting.

Atwood, Margaret – The Handmaid's Tale - fiction

Atwood, Margaret – Robber Bride - fiction

Achebe, Chinua - No Longer At Ease - fiction

Anthony, Evelyn - A Place to Hide - fiction

Baca, Jimmy Santiago - A Place to Stand – nonfiction

Brokaw, Tom – The Greatest Generation - nonfiction

Brown, Dee – Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee - historical novel

Bruschi, Tedy – Never Give Up: My Stroke, Recovery and Return to the NFL-nonfiction

Bryan, C.B. – Friendly Fire - nonfiction

Bryson, Bill – In a Sunburned Country – nonfiction

Card, Orson – Ender's Game – science fiction

Cormier, Robert – Now and At The Hour - fiction

Courtney, Francine – City of One - nonfiction

Curie, Eve - Madame Curie - biography

Dickinson, Emily – Selected Poems and Letters of Emily Dickinson – poetry

Dillard, Annie - Pilgrim at Tinker Creek – contemporary fiction

Emecheta, Buchi – The Joys of Motherhood - fiction

Ferlinghetti, Lawrence – Coney Island of the Mind - poetry

Forster, E. M. – Howard's End - fiction

Fulghum, Robert – All I Ever Wanted to Know I Learned in Kindergarten – essays

Fuller, Alexandra – Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight - nonfiction

Grimes, Martha – Biting the Moon - fiction

Haruf, Kent – Plainsong - fiction

Head, Bessie – When Rain Clouds Gather - fiction

Herr, Michael – Dispatchers - nonfiction

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Hoff, Benjamin – The Tao of Pooh – philosophy
Hosseini, Khaled – A Thousand Splendid Suns - fiction
Kennedy, William – Ironweed - contemporary fiction
Kerouac, Jack – On the Road - fiction
Knowles, John – Peace Breaks Out – fiction
Krakauer, Jon – Into Thin Air - nonfiction
Larsen, Nella – Quicksand and Passing - fiction
LeCarre, John – A Perfect Spy - espionage novel
Mais, Roger – The Hills Were Joyful Together - fiction
Markandaya, Kamala and Ganesan, Indira – Nectar In a Sieve - fiction
Marquez, Gabriel Garcia - The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor – biography
McBride, James – Color of Water - nonfiction
McCaffrey, Anna - Dragonriders of Pern - trilogy - fantasy
McCarthy, Cormac – Crossing - fiction
Megasey, David – Out of their League - nonfiction
Mitford, Nancy – Zelda - biography
Moon, William Least Heat - Blue Highways - nonfiction
Mowat, Farley – Woman in the Mists - fiction
Norton, Andre – The White Jade Fox - science fiction
Oates, Joyce Carol – Black Water - fiction
O’Toole, Peter – Loitering with Intent – biography
Philbrick, Nathaniel – Mayflower - nonfiction
Philip, Marlene Mourbese – Harriet’s Daughter – fiction
Pirsig, Robert – Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance - nonfiction
Prather, Hugh – Notes to Myself - contemporary philosophy
Proulx, Annie – Shipping News - fiction
Robbins, Tom – Just Another Roadside Attraction - fiction
Salinger, J.D. – Raise High the Roof Beams, Seymour - fiction
Saltzman, Mark – Iron and Silk - fiction
Sebold, Alice – The Lovely Bones - contemporary fiction
Smiley, Jane – A Thousand Acres - fiction
Spiegelman, Art – Maus I, and Maus II - fiction
Tan, Amy – The Kitchen God’s Wife - fiction
Toole, John Kennedy – A Confederacy of Dunces - fiction

- Truman, Margaret – Bess W. Truman - biography
Tyler, Anne – Saint Maybe - contemporary fiction
Walker, Margaret – Jubilee - fiction
Watson, Larry – Montana, 1948 - fiction
Weir, Alison – The Princes in the Tower - historical fiction
Weston, Susan B. – Children of the Light - science fiction
White, T. H. – The Once and Future King - fiction
Wolfe, Tom - The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test - fiction

Required Journal Writing

In a legibly HANDWRITTEN journal format, complete the seven prompts listed below. This journal, signed by your parent or guardian acknowledging your work is your own, must be turned in to your English teacher no later than the second class meeting.

1. Identify the book's title, author's name, copyright date, and number of pages. (5 POINTS)
2. Give a brief summary of the plot. If you read a collection of poems or essays, write about the general topic(s) that were addressed (fifty words maximum). (10 POINTS)
3. Briefly (3-4 Sentences) explain the significance of the title. Authors do not choose a title randomly, so the title may be symbolic or it may be representative of the meaning or intent of the book. (15 POINTS)
4. In one paragraph describe your first impression of the main character. In the case of poetry, essays, and nonfiction, you may give your first impressions of the topic(s) addressed. Give at least three items of information in the text to explain your impression. (20 POINTS)
5. In 3-4 sentences identify what caused a change in the main character and explain how the main character changed. Changes may have been a consequence of a choice, a conflict of some kind that has to be resolved, a display of some outstanding trait like courage, or even a result of an action or event that occurred during the story. For poetry, essays, and nonfiction, explain whether the tone changes or not. Give evidence of the tone and possible reasons for any change. (20 POINTS)
6. Cite a memorable passage from the book. Copy it word for word including the page number and briefly explain why you chose this passage from the book. (10 POINTS)
7. To highlight the significance of this book for you, read all of the following questions below and then write a response to at least one. Your response should be at least one, well-developed paragraph. (20 POINTS):
 - a. What discovery did you make as a result of reading this book?

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- b. How has this book changed your thinking or feeling?
Explain.
- c. How has the book challenged your views in some way?