

Stoughton High School

Required Summer Reading, 2008

All students taking ninth grade English, except those taking honors, will be required to read **one** of these young adult novels. A student repeating grade 9 English may not read the same book used in the previous summer(s) to fulfill this requirement.

The Hunting of the Last Dragon, by Sherryl Jordan

When Jude, a young peasant, meets Jing-wei, a Chinese noblewoman being held captive in a sideshow, his life changes dramatically. After rescuing one another from the depths of sorrow, the two eventually face the dragon that has been terrorizing their land.

Whale Talk, by Chris Crutcher

T.J., a biracial young man, successfully gathers a group of misfits from his high school to compete in the school's first swim team. These young men learn from one another's weaknesses to overcome their adversaries in the pool and in life.

Note: This novel contains mature topics and language.

Z for Zachariah, by Robert C. O'Brien

Ann Burden appears to be the only survivor of a nuclear holocaust. As she is learning to take care of herself, she discovers another survivor whose plans for the future do not agree with hers.

1. During the summer, answer the study guide questions to the novel you read. These responses will count as 20% of your first test grade. Copies of the study guide questions are available from your current English teacher. Once school is over, copies will also be available at the Stoughton Public Library, the high school office, and on the Internet at www.stoughtonschools.org.
2. Completed study guide questions, along with the signed statement at the bottom of this page, must be turned in to your English teacher **no later than the second class meeting**.
3. In September you will also take a multiple-choice test on the novel. The study guide questions will help you prepare for that test. That test score will be combined with your study guide question score to count as your first English test grade. You may also use the study guide questions to help you write an essay in your English class.

By signing this statement, I acknowledge that all work completed is my own.

Your signature: _____

Your 8th grade English teacher: _____

*Your parent/guardian's signature: _____

*Work will not be accepted unless verified by a parent or guardian.

