

Cuyahoga Heights High School

2013 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT FOR SENIORS

This is **mandatory** for all students enrolled in Ms. Neville’s English IV for the 2013-14 school year!

Please choose one of the following books to read over the summer. You will need to complete the attached assignment to verify that you have read the book and turn it in on the first day of school. Local libraries and bookstores have been notified of this assignment and should be stocked up on all of these – but still, don’t wait until the last minute to track down a copy! There are no acceptable excuses for not completing this assignment by the **due date: August 21st, 2013.**

<p style="text-align: center;">Literary Nonfiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Packing for Mars</i> by Mary Roach • <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> by Rebecca Skloot • <i>Zeitoun</i> by Dave Eggers • <i>Tuesdays With Morrie</i> by Mitch Albom • <i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls 	<p style="text-align: center;">Young Adult Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Looking for Alaska</i> by John Green • <i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i> by Jay Asher • <i>Divergent</i> by Veronica Roth • <i>Ender’s Game</i> by Orson Scott Card • <i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> by Stephen Chbosky
<p style="text-align: center;">Contemporary Fiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Kite Runner</i> by Khaled Hosseini • <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i> by Mohsin Hamid • <i>Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk</i> by Ben Fountain* • <i>Nineteen Minutes</i> by Jodi Picoult • <i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> by Margaret Atwood • <i>Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close</i> by Jonathan Safran Foer • <i>Sophie’s World</i> by Jostein Gaarder • <i>Ishmael</i> by Daniel Quinn 	<p style="text-align: center;">Classics</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you have read any of these for required or outside reading in another class, you may NOT use it for this assignment!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding • <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury • <i>Alas, Babylon</i> by Pat Frank • <i>The Things They Carried</i> by Tim O’Brien • <i>The Bell Jar</i> by Sylvia Plath • <i>The Jungle</i> by Upton Sinclair • <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> by Kurt Vonnegut • <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> by Virginia Woolf

* I have yet to read this one, but it was a National Book Award finalist in 2012 and I plan to read it over the summer.

** NOTE TO PARENTS: All books on this list were chosen based on literary merit and thematic focus with the intent of broadening reading experience and connecting to future course content. That said, please note that some of these books may contain language or subject matter that some parents could find objectionable. Because there are over 20 choices, however, no student should be unable to find something suitable.

Some tips for getting the most out of this assignment:

- 1.) **DO NOT PICK A BOOK BASED ON LENGTH!** If a 350-page book is exciting and interesting to you, you will read it much faster than a 190-page book that does not interest you at all. Trust me on this – I have seen hundreds of students take each route.
- 2.) **DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT OR MAKE EXCUSES** – starting out by saying “I don’t read books”, “I stink at reading” or any other junk like that won’t make the assignment go away; in fact, talking it down as a negative experience before you bother to give it a shot will set you up for almost certain failure. Approach it with an open and curious mind, however, and you increase your chances for success.
 - **A quick note on the “But I don’t have time to read a book” copout:** We all live hectic, busy lives. Work, family responsibilities, sports and other activities suck up the hours of each day before we realize it is over. That’s just life! The sooner you learn to manage your time efficiently, the better and more balanced your life will be. Consider this an exercise in that venture.
 - Set aside a specific time each day (ex: 15 minutes before you go to bed, or ½ hour in the afternoon) that you will use for reading until you finish.
 - Find a PLACE to read that works for you – if you’re too distracted at home, find someplace else!
 - Set specific goals for yourself (ex: 10 pages/day).
- 3.) **LIBRARIANS ARE AWESOME.** They are trained professionals with degrees in library science and/or other areas of academic interest – use them as resources to help you choose a book! Bookstore employees are also usually very helpful.
- 4.) **THE INTERNET IS ALSO OK.** Sites such as www.goodreads.com are good resources for reader reviews and ratings. However, remember that people’s opinions are just that – opinions.
- 5.) **COMPLETE THE ATTACHED ASSIGNMENT AS SOON AS YOU’RE DONE READING (OR, EVEN BETTER, AS YOU READ).** If you read your book in June and return it to the library right away, you will not have much fun scrambling to remember what you read as you attempt to complete the assignment at 10 PM on August 20th.
- 6.) **KNOW THAT YOU WILL HAVE SEVERAL CHANCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO CHOOSE A BOOK TO READ.** This should be a relief to those of you who enjoy reading and are stressed out over having to narrow it down to one book for this assignment. 😊
- 7.) **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS** that aren’t answered herein, please contact me. I will check each of the following approximately once a week over the summer:
 - Email: mneville@cuyhts.org
 - Twitter: @Ms_Neville
 - Website: <http://www.msnev.wordpress.com> (I will post class-related updates here throughout the summer!)

Happy reading!

English IV Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: August 21, 2013 (30 points)

Your name:	Book title:	Author:
Year published:	Genre:	Approx. time it took you to read:

In a sentence or two, explain why/how you chose this book.

Briefly **summarize** the book **in your own words** (complete sentences, please).

VOCABULARY:

List any FIVE unfamiliar **words** you encountered while reading, the **sentence** each word appears in, and the **definition** of each word (if you find multiple definitions, pick the one that makes the most sense given the context!).

What did you learn about **human nature** and/or a particular **social issue** from reading this book? Please respond in at least a full paragraph, and be sure to be clear what aspect of the book (a character, the setting, a situation, etc.) sparked this new understanding for you.

Jot down one quotation from the book that you found interesting, funny, perplexing, or otherwise thought-provoking. **YOU MUST INCLUDE THE PAGE # TO RECEIVE CREDIT.** Explain in a sentence or two the **context** of the quotation and **your reaction to it.**

What did you like or enjoy most about this book?

What did you dislike about this book?

