

Summer Reading 2013-2014

English II Honors

Students should take notes in a handwritten (or printable) journal. Students will be assessed on their summer reading with an in-class essay focused on a literary term. Students may use their notes for this assessment. Students will be asked to do a poster (rubric below) involving *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. Both assessments are test grades.

- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (Haddon)
- and**
- Two free choice books from the following list:

A Night to Remember by Walter Lord

Lord interviewed scores of *Titanic* passengers, fashioning a gripping you-are-there account of the ship's sinking that you can read in half the time it takes to see the film. The book boasts many perfect movie moments not found in Cameron's film. Lord includes a crucial, tragically ironic drama Cameron couldn't fit into the film: the failure of the nearby ship *Californian* to save all those aboard the sinking vessel because distress lights were misread as random flickering and the telegraph was an early wind-up model that no one wound. As the ship sank, writes Lord, "the poop deck, normally Third Class space ... was suddenly becoming attractive to all kinds of people." Lord's logic is as cold as the Atlantic, and his bitter wit is quite dry.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Francie Nolan, avid reader, penny-candy connoisseur, and adroit observer of human nature, has much to ponder in colorful, turn-of-the-century Brooklyn. She grows up with a sweet, tragic father, a severely realistic mother, and an aunt who gives her love too freely--to men, and to a brother who will always be the favored child. Francie learns early the meaning of hunger and the value of a penny. She is her father's child--romantic and hungry for beauty. But she is her mother's child, too--deeply practical and in constant need of truth. Betty Smith's poignant, honest novel created a big stir when it was first published over 50 years ago. Her frank writing about life's squalor was alarming to some of the more genteel society, but the book's humor and pathos ensured its place in the realm of classics--and in the hearts of readers, young and old.

Day by Elie Wiesel

The publication of *Day* restores Elie Wiesel's original title to the novel initially published in English as *The Accident* and clearly establishes it as the powerful conclusion to the author's classic trilogy of Holocaust literature, which includes his memoir *Night* and novel *Dawn*. "In *Night* it is the 'I' who speaks," writes Wiesel. "In the other two, it is the 'I' who listens and questions." Most of Wiesel's masterful portrayal of one man's exploration of the historical tragedy that befell him, his family, and his people transpires in the thoughts, daydreams, and memories of the novel's narrator. Torn between choosing life or death, *Day* again and again returns to the guiding questions that inform Wiesel's trilogy: the meaning and worth of surviving the annihilation of a race, the effects of the Holocaust upon the modern character of the Jewish people, and the loss of one's religious faith in the face of mass murder and human extermination.

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, the 13-year-old has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow as part of her family's struggle to lengthen Kate's life. Anna is now being considered as a kidney donor in a last-ditch attempt to save her 16-year-old sister. As this compelling story opens, Anna has hired a lawyer to represent her in a medical emancipation suit to allow her to have control over her own body. Picoult skillfully relates the ensuing drama from the points of view of the parents; Anna; Cambell, the self-absorbed lawyer; Julia, the court-appointed guardian ad litem; and Jesse, the troubled oldest child in the family. There seems to be no easy answer, and readers are likely to be sympathetic to all sides of the case. This is a real page-turner and frighteningly thought-provoking. The story shows evidence of thorough research and the unexpected twist at the end will surprise almost everyone.

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

A stunning literary achievement, *The Joy Luck Club* explores the tender and tenacious bond between four daughters and their mothers. The daughters know one side of their mothers, but they don't know about their earlier never-spoken-of lives in China. The mothers want love and obedience from their daughters, but they don't know the gifts that the daughters keep to themselves. Heartwarming and bittersweet, this is a novel for mother, daughters, and those that love them.

RUBRIC: CHARACTER COLLAGE

- Five words that describe Christopher's character and a short explanation (40-60 words per description) of how each word depicts him.

Excellent: All five words are relevant, connected, and explained using specific details from the story.

Good: All five words are relevant and explained with some detail.

Proficient: Most of the words are relevant and explained with some detail.

Not proficient: Some of the words are relevant and explained with little detail.

- One important scene in which Christopher is faced with a challenge and an explanation (40-60 words) as to why you chose the scene.

Excellent: The scene is relevant and important. His challenge is explained with detail and it is very clear why the student chose the scene.

Good: The scene is important. His challenge and the scene are explained with much detail.

Proficient: The scene is somewhat relevant. His challenge and the scene are explained with some detail.

Not Proficient: The scene may or may not be relevant. His challenge and the scene are explained with little detail.

- Five objects (person, place, thing) that are important to Christopher's life and a short explanation of how each one is important.

Excellent: All five objects are relevant, connected, and explained using specific details from the story.

Good: All five objects are relevant and explained with some detail.

Proficient: Most of the objects are relevant and explained with some detail.

Not proficient: Some of the words are relevant and explained with little detail.

➤ Grammar/Punctuation