

June 2009

Dear 2009-2010 Sophomore English Honors student:

Congratulations on being selected for sophomore Honors English class! We are excited to get to know you in the fall as we explore literature, writing, and the human experience in a thoughtful and engaging setting.

Over the summer, please read **three** selections of literature. The sophomore curriculum is, in part, built around the idea of the voyage of the hero, as well as the themes of accepting individual responsibility and making ethical choices. Crafted in response to these course goals, the list below offers you many opportunities for reading challenging and compelling literature. Spend some time previewing the texts, familiarizing yourself with both the content and the reading level, and make your choices accordingly. **Please select one text from each category – Fiction, Drama/Epic Poetry, Nonfiction – for a total of three texts read over the summer.**

Be prepared to write on one or all of the works you read this summer at the beginning of the school year in the fall. See you in room #208 and have a great summer! We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

D. W. Wirtz
Jami Wray

Fiction

Ray Bradbury *Fahrenheit 451*
 Marian Bradley *The Mists of Avalon*
 Daphne DuMaurier *Rebecca*
 James Hilton *Lost Horizon*
 C.S. Lewis *Till We Have Faces*
 Mary Renault *The King Must Die*
 William Saroyan *The Human Comedy*
 J.R.R. Tolkien *The Hobbit*
The Lord of the Rings (any
 of the trilogy)
 T.H. White *The Once and Future
 King*
 Alice Walker *The Color Purple*
 Kaye Gibbons *Charms for the Easy Life*
 Ellen Foster
 Isabel Allende *Daughter of Fortune*
 Jeffrey Eugenides *Middlesex*
 Julie Orringer *How to Breathe Under
 Water*(short stories)
 Myla Goldberg *Bee Season*
 Kiran Desai *The Inheritance of Loss*
 Nicole Krauss *The History of Love*
 Walter Dean Meyers *Fallen Angels*
 Cormac McCarthy *The Road*
 Janet Fitch *White Oleander*

John Steinbeck *East of Eden*
 Yann Matel *Life of Pi*
 Jane Hamilton *The Book of Ruth*
 Miriam Toews *A Complicated Kindness*
 Junot Diaz *The Brief Wondrous Life of
 Oscar Wao*

Leif Enger *Peace Like A River*
 Cormac McCarthy *All The Pretty Horses*
 Charles Frazier *Cold Mountain*
 Chaim Potok *The Chosen*

Drama/Epic Poetry

William Shakespeare *King Lear*
Othello
Richard III
Antony and Cleopatra
 Sophocles *Antigone*
 Euripides *The Trojan Women*
 Homer *The Iliad*
 Aeschylus *Agamemnon*
Prometheus Bound

Nonfiction

Mark Mathabane *Kaffir Boy: The True Story
 of a Black Youth's Coming
 of Age in Apartheid South
 Africa*
 Frank McCourt *Angela's Ashes*
 Pat Mora *House of Houses*
 Malcolm X *The Autobiography of
 Malcolm X*
 Richard Wright *Black Boy: A Record of
 Childhood and Youth*
 James Baldwin *Notes of a Native Son*
Go Tell it on the Mountain
 Norman Maclean *Young Men and Fire*
 Ken McGooggan *Race to the Polar Sea*
 Nathaniel Philbrick *In the Heart of the Sea*
 Jeanette Walls *The Glass Castle*
 Maya Angelou *I Know Why the Caged Bird
 Sings*