

West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

Sophomore Honors 2006-2007 School Year

One of the greatest abilities we possess as humans is the ability to read. Reading opens our minds to many different worlds – worlds we otherwise might not have the opportunity to explore. It is the objective of this program to help enrich and further develop students' reading skills. **Therefore, please realize that this program is not optional.**

Upon returning to school, students will be evaluated during **the second week of school** regarding their comprehension of the selected titles. **Any student absent on a given day and not possessing a legal excuse** (i.e. doctor, court, funeral, military) **will be permitted to make up the test but will not be awarded a school higher than a 75%.** Students' scores will be calculated as part of their first quarter average; this score **must** be included and may not be dropped.

In addition, this year there is an extra incentive to complete the summer reading assignment. On a selected day, all those students who pass their summer reading test with a 70% or above will be excused from school at 11:10 am. Furthermore, each student who scores an 80% or higher will have his or her name placed in a drawing, one winner per grade level, for a \$25 gift card to Borders.

Honor's Level (Note: A passing grade of 70% **must** be achieved in order to earn the guaranteed 88% for the first quarter.)

You are **required** to read **all five** of the following titles:

- **Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451***

First published in 1953, *Fahrenheit 451* is a classic novel set in the future when books forbidden by a totalitarian regime are burned. The hero, a book burner, suddenly discovers that books are flesh and blood ideas that cry out silently when put to the torch.

- **Mitch Albom, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven***

From the author of the phenomenal #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Tuesdays with Morrie*, a novel that explores the unexpected connections of our lives, and the idea that heaven is more than a place; it's an answer.

- **Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried***

A collection of short story-like episodes about the lives of a group of foot soldiers in Vietnam: their present existence in the alien jungle, their childhoods, and their futures in America after the war is long over.

- **Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights***

Emily Bronte's only novel, is one of the pinnacles of 19th century English literature. It's the story of Heathcliff, an orphan who falls in love with a girl above his class, loses her, and devotes the rest of his life to wreaking revenge on her family.

- **Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak***

When Melinda Sordino's friends discover she called the police to quiet a party, they ostracize her, turning her into an outcast -- even among kids she barely knows. But even worse than the harsh conformity of high-school cliques is a secret that you have to hide.