

West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

Junior 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:

- Ernest J. Gaines, ***Lesson before Dying***

From the author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* comes a deep and compassionate novel. A young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting.

- Ernest Hemingway, ***The Sun Also Rises***

Hemingway's first bestselling novel, it is the story of a group of 'Lost Generation' Americans and Brits in the 1920s on a sojourn from Paris to Pamplona, Spain. The novel poignantly details their life as expatriates on Paris' Left Bank, and conveys the brutality of bullfighting in Spain. The novel established Hemingway as one of the great prose stylists of all time.

- Tennessee Williams, ***A Streetcar Named Desire***

It is a short list of 20th-century American plays that continue to have the same power and impact as when they first appeared - *A Streetcar Named Desire* is one of those plays. The story of the fading and desperate Blanche DuBois and how her sensuous and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski, pushes her over the edge is now classic.

- Robert Frost, ***North of Boston***

A volume of poetry (1913-1914) that contains many of the poet's finest, best-known works: "Mending Wall," "After Apple-Picking," "The Death of the Hired Man," and many more.

- Stephen Crane, ***The Red Badge of Courage***

In the spring of 1863, as he faces battle for the first time at Chancellorsville, Virginia, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.