

# West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

## Senior 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:

- **Daniel Defoe, *A Journal of the Plague Years***

Classic 1722 account of the epidemic that ravaged England nearly 60 years earlier. Defoe used his considerable talents as a journalist and novelist to reconstruct--historically and fictionally--the Great Plague of London in 1664-65. Written as an eyewitness report, the novel abounds in memorable and realistic details.

- **Bram Stoker, *Dracula***

The Dracula mythology has inspired a vast subculture, but the story has never been better told than by Stoker. He aims to terrify and succeeds, portraying the awesome power of evil to corrupt even the virtuous heroine, Lucy. Only the old magic--a crucifix, garlic, a wooden stake--can provide effective weapons against the Count's appalling strength.

- **Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness***

Written several years after Conrad's grueling sojourn in the Belgian Congo, the novel tells the story of Marlow, a seaman who undertakes his own journey into the African jungle to find the tormented white trader Kurtz.

- **Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice***

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the suit of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

- **George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion***

Pygmalion both delighted and scandalized its first audiences in 1914. A brilliantly witty reworking of the classical tale of the sculptor Pygmalion, who falls in love with his perfect female statue, it is also a barbed attack on the British class system and a statement of Shaw's feminist views. In Shaw's hands, the phoneticist Henry Higgins is the Pygmalion figure who believes he can transform Eliza Doolittle, a cockney flower girl, into a duchess at ease in polite society. The one thing he overlooks is that his 'creation' has a mind of her own.