

West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

Freshmen 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:

- **Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club***

The story of four mothers and their first-generation Chinese-American daughters; two generations of women struggling to come to terms with their cultural identity.

- **George Orwell, *1984***

A prophetic 1948 novel about a world in which the government completely controls the masses by controlling their thoughts, altering history and even changing the meaning of words to suit its needs.

- **J.R.R Tolkien, *The Hobbit***

A story about Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit (a dwarf), who goes on an adventure with some other Hobbits. They travel to Lonely Mountain to get their land back from an evil dragon.

- **Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart***

The story of Okonkwo and the Ibo people of Nigeria is the story of British colonization and the collapse of the indigenous culture.

- **Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee, *Inherit the Wind***

Based on the Scopes “Monkey Trial” in 1925, *Inherit the Wind* is the drama of a high school science teacher in the Bible belt. He is brought to trial when he breaks the law by teaching his class Darwinian evolution.