

West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

Freshmen Honors 2010-2011 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.

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 (5)** 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.

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Sophomore Honors 2010-2011 School Year

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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.

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 SIX (6)** of the following titles:

- Homer Hickam, October Sky
- Jeannette Walls, The Glass Castle
- William Golding, Lord of the Flies
- Dave Pelzer, A Child Called "It"; One Child's Courage to Survive
- Nic Sheff, Tweak
- David Sheff, A Beautiful Boy; A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction

West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

Junior Honors 2010-2011 School Year

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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.

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 (5)** of the following titles:

- Benjamin Franklin, The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
- Mark Twain, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- Carson McCullers, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter
- Ernest Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises
- Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire

West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

Senior Honors 2010-2011 School Year

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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.

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 FOUR (4)** of the following titles:

- **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.

West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

SENIOR AP ENGLISH

2010-2011 School Year

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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 the day of the summer reading test(s) 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 score 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.

AP 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 EIGHT (8) of the following titles:

- **Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* – OBJECTIVE TEST**

Death of a Salesman is a 1949 play by Arthur Miller, his most famous and commonly revived work. Viewed by many as a caustic attack on the American Dream of success through economic enterprise, it made both Arthur Miller and lead character Willy Loman household names.

- **Albert Camus, *The Stranger* – OBJECTIVE TEST**

The story of a character's indifference toward the death of his mother and a murder he has committed.

- **Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* – OBJECTIVE TEST**

A young governess falls in love with her employer in this classic coming-of-age tale set in 19th-century England.

- **Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* – OBJECTIVE TEST**

The tragic story of a woman wronged by two men and by the harsh, repressive society in which she lives. Hardy's most striking and tragic heroine, Tess is a woman of intense vitality and innate goodness, and the author's favorite character.

- **Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon* - JOURNAL**

Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. With this brilliantly imagined novel, Nobel Prize laureate Toni Morrison audaciously transfigures the coming-of-age story. As she follows Milkman from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins, Morrison introduces an entire cast of strivers and prophets, liars and assassins, the habitants of a fully realized black world.

- **Mary Shelly, *Frankenstein* - JOURNAL**

The story of Victor Frankenstein and of the monstrous creature he created has held readers spellbound ever since it was published almost two centuries ago. On the surface, it is a novel of tense and steadily mounting horror; but on a more profound level, it offers searching illumination of the human condition in its portrayal of a scientist who oversteps the bounds of conscience, and of a monster brought to life in an alien world, ever more desperately attempting to escape the torture of his solitude.

- **Thomas C. Foster, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* – TEST (Completion / Fill In The Blanks)**

Understanding literature need no longer be a mystery -- Thomas Foster's book will help transform you from a naive, sometimes confused Watson to an insightful, literary Holmes. Professors and other informed readers see symbols, archetypes, and patterns because those things are there -- if you have learned to look for them.

- **Edith Hamilton, *Mythology* – PRESENTATION / OBJECTIVE TEST**

A keystone of our culture is the body of myth and legend of the ancient Western world--stories of gods and heroes that have inspired human creativity since time immemorial. Hamilton's renowned classic brings this legacy to life anew, with impeccably accurate and accessible retellings of eternally spellbinding tales.