

West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

Senior AP ENGLISH

2009-2010 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 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** 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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Thomas C. Foster, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* – SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

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**

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.