

# West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

## Freshmen Honors 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 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** 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 2009-2010 School Year

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**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:

- **Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451**

First published in 1953, *Fahrenheit 451* is a classic novel set in the future when books forbidden by a totalitarian regime are burned. The hero, a book burner, suddenly discovers that books are flesh and blood ideas that cry out silently when put to the torch.

- **Mitch Albom, The Five People You Meet in Heaven**

From the author of the phenomenal #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Tuesdays with Morrie*, a novel that explores the unexpected connections of our lives, and the idea that heaven is more than a place; it's an answer.

- **Tim O'Brien, The Things They Carried**

A collection of short story-like episodes about the lives of a group of foot soldiers in Vietnam: their present existence in the alien jungle, their childhoods, and their futures in America after the war is long over.

- **Emily Bronte, Wuthering Heights**

Emily Bronte's only novel, is one of the pinnacles of 19th century English literature. It's the story of Heathcliff, an orphan who falls in love with a girl above his class, loses her, and devotes the rest of his life to wreaking revenge on her family.

- **Laurie Halse Anderson, Speak**

When Melinda Sordino's friends discover she called the police to quiet a party, they ostracize her, turning her into an outcast -- even among kids she barely knows. But even worse than the harsh conformity of high-school cliques is a secret that you have to hide.

## West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

### Junior Honors 2009-2010 School Year

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**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:

*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers

*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway

*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

## West Scranton High School Summer Reading List

### Senior Honors 2009-2010 School Year

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**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:

• **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.