

# **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.