

2009 PRE-REQUISITE READING

English II Honors

PART ONE

BUY A BOOK! >>>> READ IT! >>>> BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS!

You need to purchase a novel (hardback or paper) that has been first published within the past year. The more recent, the better. Check the Best Seller lists (fiction) at the libraries, bookstores, Walmart, etc. for the most recent novels. You may check the publication date on the backside of the title page at the front of the book. Make sure that the book is not a reprint of a novel that was published much earlier. If you have doubts, then read the information on the back cover, introductory remarks, author information, etc. that you can find with a quick browse through the book. You will not receive credit for the assignment if you fail to meet this requirement, no matter if you thought you were reading a novel first published within the past year and instead picked up one published earlier. It's your responsibility to find out and make sure.

You should NOT read one of those classics that you might have to STUDY for school. You SHOULD pick up a book that you might (yes, actually might) ENJOY READING. The nationality of the author does not matter.

Of course, since this is school, there are strings attached with this assignment.

1. You must select a book that is at least 250 pages.
2. You must find at least one review in a newspaper, magazine, or online (do a Google search using the book's title along with the word *review*). Libraries (Canton, Waynesville, Maggie Valley) will let you use their computers, if you are polite. Cut out or print this review and bring it to the first class meeting, along with your book.
3. Be prepared to say something intelligent about the book that goes beyond just the plot. Think about connections with real people and things that you know and be able to explain how the book connects. To say it does not connect to anything is not acceptable. On the first day of class you will be asked construct an argument (not a quarrel) that maintains the book (although fiction) connects with the real world in some way. THINK about the book, don't just read it.
4. Create and bring with you two discussion questions (and answers) that a teacher might ask about the book if it had been assigned in class.

Obviously, some of you may read the same titles. That's OK, but each of you must have a copy of whatever titles you read.

PART TWO

In addition to reading a novel published within the last year, you should choose one novel from the list below and complete the same assignment (find and save a review, think about how the book relates to "real" life, prepare two discussion questions). You may use local libraries to borrow these titles, in they are available, or you may be able to find these novels in bookstores in the area. Ordering them from sites such as *amazon.com*, *booksense.com*, and other online bookstores is a possibility. Online booksellers usually have a brief description of the novels, so you might browse through them to get an idea of which of the title you might enjoy.

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
The Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan

Blindness by José Saramago
Across the Nightingale Floor by Lian Hearn
The Boys from St. Petri by Bjarne B. Reuter

PLEASE NOTE

Some of the books may contain language and situations intended for mature readers.
You should have parent or guardian approval in selecting the books you read.