

## **The All-School-Read: Summer 2010**

*The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch

ISBN-10: 1401309658

ISBN-13: 978-1401309657

### **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SUMMER READING:**

#### **Freshmen**

*Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar **for all students**

ISBN-10: 0142407801

ISBN-13: 978-0142407806

**plus** *Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle **for honors**

ISBN-10: 1551117223

ISBN-13: 978-1551117225

#### **Sophomores**

##### **Sheltered 2**

*The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck

ISBN-10: 0140187391

ISBN-13: 978-0140187397

##### **College Prep**

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

ISBN-10: 0142000671

ISBN-13: 978-0142000670

##### **Honors**

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

ISBN-10: 0061120073

ISBN-13: 978-0061120077

#### **Juniors**

**College-Prep Students: Choose and read ONE from this list:**

**AP Language and Composition Students: Choose and read TWO books from this list:**

*The Winter King* by Bernard Cornwell

ISBN-10: 0312156960

ISBN-13: 978-0312156961

This novel is the first of Cornwell's Warlord Chronicles and begins in the Dark Age Britain, a land where Arthur has been banished and Merlin has disappeared, where a child sits unprotected on the throne, where religion vies with magic for the souls of the people. It is to this desperate land that Arthur returns, a man at once utterly human and truly heroic: a man of honor, loyalty, and amazing valor; a man who loves Guinevere more passionately than he should; a man whose life is at once tragic and triumphant. As Arthur fights to keep a flicker of civilization alive in a barbaric world, a fantastic story of camaraderie, honor, and revenge unfolds for the reader.

*Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks

ISBN-10: 0142001430

ISBN-13: 978-0142001431

When a small town of just over 300 people discovers the London Plague (a real event) is amongst them, they boldly decide to quarantine themselves within their town boundaries. Driven by both a belief God is testing them and a selfless need not to spread the disease to neighboring areas, they struggle for just over a year with the implications of their decision. Loosely based on 1665-1666 history of the English town of Eyam, *Year of Wonders* fictitiously recreates not only the compassion, but also the hysteria that drives people when faced with catastrophe. Along with losing over two-thirds their community, they also lose their carefully structured class-system and most of their inhibitions. Even though several characters are present for only a chapter or two, be sure to note how the Plague affects their lives, for each person represents a sliver of the whole community.

*Gracelin O'Malley* by Ann Moore

ISBN-10: 0451202996

ISBN-13: 978-0451202994

Life has not been easy for Gracelin O'Malley in 19<sup>th</sup> century Ireland. Only fifteen when she married the local English landlord to save her Irish family from financial ruin, she has tried her best to be a dutiful wife, providing him with an heir. Despite her husband's escalating cruelty, Gracelin's spirit remains unbroken though she is no longer the innocent country girl she once was. As the Irish Famine devastates the land, she openly defies her husband by feeding the desperate souls who come to her door. As political unrest sweeps across the countryside, she harbors Irish rebels—her brilliant brother among them—keeping hidden, as well, the deepest secret of her heart. And as disaster threatens those she loves most, Grace fights to keep them alive, her profound courage inspiring everyone around her.

*Rose* by Martin Cruz Smith

ISBN-10: 034542252X

ISBN-13: 978-0345422521

Jonathon Blair, a mining engineer and explorer, returns to England from Africa's Gold Coast in 1872, sent to the coal mines of Wigan in Lancashire to investigate a mining disaster and the disappearance of a local clergyman. As he sleuths around the cultured homes of Wigan, through ill-cobbled alleys and into the depths of the mines, he turns detective, quickly learning that he'll need all his bush survival skills just to stay alive in Wigan, where no one seems to want the curate found. On the first day of Blair's investigation, he confronts a miner skilled at a blood sport in which men fight with brass-studded clogs. Blair ends up on the wrong end of a clog more than once. His verbal sparring matches with the upper class are hilarious, scathing criticisms of English upper-class incivility. Sparkling dialogue meets tantalizing mystery with grim, graphic depictions of mining life that sear both the conscience and the imagination.

## **Seniors**

**College Prep – Choose any two (2) of the following:**

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

ISBN-10: 0385474547

ISBN-13: 978-0385474542

In direct, almost fable-like prose, the novel depicts the rise and fall of Okonkwo, a Nigerian whose sense of manliness is more akin to that of his warrior ancestors than to that of his fellow clansmen who have converted to Christianity and are appeasing the British administrators who infiltrate their village. The tough, proud, hardworking Okonkwo is at once a quintessential old-order Nigerian and a universal character in whom sons of all races have identified the figure of their father. Achebe creates a many-sided picture of village life and a sympathetic hero.

*The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

ISBN-10: 0061122416

ISBN-13: 978-0061122415

An inspirational fable that has been a runaway bestseller throughout Latin America seems poised to achieve the same prominence here. The charming tale of Santiago, a shepherd boy, who dreams of seeing the world, is compelling in its own right, but gains resonance through the many lessons Santiago learns during his adventures. He journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment. The story has the comic charm, dramatic tension and psychological intensity of a fairy tale, but it's full of specific about becoming self-empowered, overcoming depression, and believing in dreams.

*Tortilla Curtain* by T.C Boyle

ISBN-10: 014023828X

ISBN-13: 978-0140238280

This is a gripping story of an illegal immigrant husband and wife who are trying to find work in California. Plagued by lack of work, food, and living quarters this couple is constantly battling for survival in a hostile land. An accidental meeting of the immigrants and a Topanga Canyon naturalist and newspaper reporter sets the scene for conflict.

*Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris

ISBN-10: 0060958022

ISBN-13: 978-0060958022

When Framboise Simon returns to a small village on the banks of the Loire, the locals do not recognize her as the daughter of the infamous woman they hold responsible for a tragedy during the German occupation years ago. But the past and the present are inextricably entwined, particularly in a scrapbook of recipes and memories that Framboise has inherited from her mother. And soon Framboise will realize that the journal also contains the key to the tragedy that indelibly marked that summer of her ninth year.

*The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama

ISBN-10: 0312144075

ISBN-13: 978-0312144074

On the eve of the Second World War, a young Chinese man is sent to his family's summer home in Japan to recover from tuberculosis. He will rest, swim in the sea and paint in the brilliant shoreside light. It will

be quiet and solitary. However when he meets four local residents Stephen has his own adventure and becomes involved in the unfolding story of Matsu, Sachi and Kenzo.

**AP Lit & Comp – one of the above senior list plus BOTH**

*Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

ISBN-10: 0199537801

ISBN-13: 978-0199537808

**and**

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

ISBN-10: 0199535981

ISBN-13: 978-0199535989