

BURRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2009-2010 Grades 9-12

The English Department is pleased to announce its summer reading program for 2009-2010. The program is designed to encourage life-long reading for pleasure, improve reading skills, and raise academic standards. Research has proven that avid readers excel in academics, score well on standardized tests, and are superior critical and creative thinkers. Reading is both an essential communication skill and a rewarding hobby that can provide hours of entertainment and vicarious life experiences.

Once again the department has created separate reading lists for each grade, and students must select from their grade level list. **Students also must read the required number of books for their course level. Requirements are as follows:**

Traditional	two books	Advanced	three books
Standard	two books	AP/EEP	four to six books

Standard and traditional students in grades 10-12 must choose one of the mandatory books listed for their English class. They also are required to read one book from the general reading list for their grade. Grade 9 students must read the appropriate number of books for their level from the general grade 9 reading list. All reading lists include a variety of texts designed to appeal to different reading tastes. We are confident that all students will find interesting and suitable works on the list. We encourage students to review their choices with their parents; in fact, we hope these reading lists will promote reading and discussion within families. Since some texts may contain mature content, we suggest that parents assist their children in making choices appropriate for their maturity levels.

In the case of Advanced and AP/EEP classes, students must complete specific teacher-designed projects and/or papers based on their readings. **Teachers of these classes will meet with their future students to distribute their assignments, some of which specify alternative texts not on the general reading lists.**

All books must be read by the start of school. **During early September, students will be expected to write and talk about their books in their English classes. A written assessment will be given on the mandatory titles, and students will complete teacher-designed projects and activities on the second book. Book chats, formal essays, visual projects, and literature circles are examples of possible assignments. TO PREPARE FOR THESE ACTIVITIES, STUDENTS SHOULD KEEP A RECORD OF THEIR READING THROUGH A READING RESPONSE JOURNAL, GRAPHIC ORGANIZER, NOTEBOOK, OR OUTLINE. STUDENTS MAY BE PERMITTED TO USE SUCH WRITTEN WORK IN COMPLETING THEIR IN-CLASS ASSESSMENTS AND ACTIVITIES. Summer reading will count as at least two test grades and will be incorporated into the student's first quarter average.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: All students are required to enter their summer reading assessments/projects in their digital portfolios. They also may wish to include these books in their annotated reading list in their digital portfolios. Summer reading projects will be scored using the digital portfolio rubric attached.

Students may want to purchase their books so that they may annotate the texts for future reference. They also may wish to check bookstores, trade books among themselves, and preview or purchase books by visiting www.amazon.com, www.borders.com, or www.bn.com.

**Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library,
100 Tinkham Lane, Harrisville**

**Pascoag Free Public Library
57 Church Street, Pascoag**

NOTE: A change in grade level due to course failure or summer school make up will not excuse a student from summer reading. Copies of grade level lists will be available in the guidance office. Students taking two English courses (i.e., English 11 Standard and English 12 Standard) are required to read one mandatory text for each course and a third text from the general list for the higher grade.

Burrillville High School
Rubric Development – October 7, 2005

Expectation:	2. All students will effectively utilize literacy skills: writing, listening, speaking, and reading analysis and interpretation.
Requirement:	6. Summer Reading Project
Authors:	M. Ryan, J. Zaleski

4	3	2	1
Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Needs More Work	Needs More Instruction
Paper/project demonstrates a thorough knowledge and understanding of the reading through the use of many specific, accurate, and well-chosen details from the text.	Paper/project demonstrates adequate knowledge and understanding of the reading through the use of specific and accurate details from the text.	Paper/project demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of reading, but specific details are limited.	Paper/project demonstrates very limited knowledge or understanding of the text.
Paper/project exhibits superior comprehension that goes beyond the literal to in-depth personal, critical, and/or evaluative responses.	Paper/project exhibits good comprehension that goes beyond the literal to personal, critical and/or evaluative responses.	Paper/project exhibits a level of comprehension consisting primarily of literal and personal responses.	Paper/project exhibits illogical, incomplete, or irrelevant responses.
Paper/project organizes ideas effectively and contains no significant errors in usage, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Paper/project organizes ideas clearly and contains few significant errors in usage, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Paper/project reflects limited organization of ideas and contains several significant errors in usage, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Paper/project has no sense of organization and contains numerous, distracting errors in usage, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.
Oral and/or visual components, where applicable, exhibit effective planning and organization, engage the audience well, and evidence superior knowledge and understanding.	Oral and/or visual components, where applicable, exhibit adequate planning and organization, engage the audience appropriately, and evidence good knowledge and understanding.	Oral and/or visual components, where applicable, show some planning and organization, attempt to engage the audience, and reflect some knowledge and understanding.	Oral and/or visual components, where applicable, are missing or poorly executed.
Project/paper conforms to all requirements regarding deadlines, content, length, and format.	Paper/project conforms to most requirements regarding deadlines, content, length, and format.	Project fails to meet some major requirements regarding deadlines, content, length, and format.	Project fails to meet most requirements regarding deadlines, content, length, and format.

BURRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST 2009-2010 GRADE 11

IMPORTANT NOTE: All students are required to enter their summer reading assessments/projects in their digital portfolios. They also may wish to include these books in their annotated reading list in their digital portfolios. Summer reading projects will be scored using the digital portfolio rubric attached.

Mandatory Reading for Standard and Traditional 11th Grade Classes

English 11 Standard and Academy English I – Choose One

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

In a small Cajun community in 1940s Louisiana, Jefferson, a young black man, is about to go to the electric chair for murder. A white shopkeeper had died during a robbery gone bad; though the young man on trial had not been

armed and had not pulled the trigger, in that time and place, there could be no doubt of the verdict or the penalty. Grant is a college-educated lawyer from the same small town who returns to his hometown and is asked by Jefferson's grandmother to teach her grandson how to die like a man.

OR

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

Owen Meany hits the foul ball while playing baseball in the summer of 1953 that kills his best friend's mother. What happens to Owen after the fated event makes this book fascinating.

OR

Catcher in the Rye -- J. D. Salinger

This novel is perhaps America's most famous coming-of-age story. The story is told through the eyes of Holden Caulfield, the confused and complicated central character who is on a journey through adolescence. Salinger portrays Holden's funny and poignant experiences with life and love with a reality that has made this a beloved classic.

English 11 Traditional – Choose One

Of Mice and Men -- John Steinbeck

"*Of Mice and Men* is the story of the complex bond between two migrant laborers in Central California. They are George Milton and Lennie Small, itinerant ranch hands who dream of one day owning a small farm. George acts as a father figure to Lennie, who is a very large, simpleminded man, calming him and helping to reign in his immense physical strength" (www.bn.com).

OR

The Old Man and the Sea – Ernest Hemingway

"The last novel Ernest Hemingway saw published, *The Old Man and the Sea* has proved itself to be one of the enduring works of American fiction. It is the story of an old Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal: a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Using the simple, powerful language of a fable, Hemingway takes the timeless themes of courage in the face of defeat and personal triumph won from loss and transforms them into a magnificent twentieth-century classic" (www.amazon.com).

General Reading List for All Standard and Traditional 11th Graders – Choose One

All Rivers Flow to the Sea – Alison McGhee

"Who am I, if not Ivy's sister? Who will I be, without her beside me?" Rose Latham, survivor of the car wreck that left her older sister in a permanent vegetative state, must find the answers before she can move on in life. Despite the doctor's recommendation that Rose's sister be removed from life support, their mother cannot let her daughter go, and so Rose, too, struggles to let go. Rose navigates her grief with the assistance of William T., a kindly and astute older neighbor, and the stalwart Tom Miller, a childhood friend destined to become more" (www.amazon.com, quoting Holly Koelling, *Booklist*, American Library Association).

Ashes of Roses – Mary Jane Auch

"Mary Jane Auch combines a classic immigration tale with the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in this spirited novel. The narrator, 16-year-old Rose Nolan, arrives at Ellis Island with her family, but right away they are beset by obstacles. Her baby brother is diagnosed with trachoma; and her father must take him back to Ireland." When her mother gives up on America, Rose finds work at the ill-fated Triangle Shirtwaist Factory (www.amazon.com, quoting *Publisher's Weekly*).

Black Like Me – John Howard Griffin

"In 1959, Griffin, a noted white journalist, decided to try an experiment. He felt that the only way to determine the truth about how African Americans were treated by whites, and to learn if there was discrimination, was to become one. After a series of medical treatments that darkened his skin, he began his travels in the Deep South. Made up primarily of his journal entries during that time, *Black Like Me* . . . details the experiences he had while passing for black. . . ." (www.bn.com, quoting *Library Journal*).

Bleachers – John Grisham

"A small klatch of players on Messina High School's 1987 football team assembles on the bleachers of Rake Field, home of the winning Spartans, and named after their controversial coach. Eddie Rake was the bane and bounty of three decades of athletes, and now he is dying. His personality comes to life as his team members recollect what it was like to play for him. As they come to roost on the bleachers, they all have a story from the coach's school of hard knocks. This is especially true of

all-American quarterback, Neely Crenshaw. Coping with setbacks, longing for an old flame, and trying to make sense of the impending passing of the man who pushed him to the brink but whom he ultimately eulogizes is Neely's lot, and, readers can hope, the beginning of better luck. Teens will jeer and cheer in the appropriate places as they keep turning the pages, and, like the flavorful characters, will gain understanding from the perspective of the stands" (www.bn.com, quoting Karen Sokol in *School Library Journal*).

The Bluest Eye -- Toni Morrison

In this moving story, Pecola Breedlove, an eleven-year-old black girl, covets the blond hair and blue eyes of white children. Believing blue eyes mean beauty and acceptance, she prays that her eyes will turn blue. When her own father assaults Pecola, Toni Morrison exposes the heartache and tragedy caused by sexual abuse within a family.

The Boy Who Fell Out of the Sky: A True Story – Ken Dornstein

"David Dornstein was twenty-five years old, with dreams of becoming a great writer, when he boarded Pan Am Flight 103 on December 21, 1988. Thirty-eight minutes after takeoff, a terrorist bomb ripped the plane apart over Lockerbie, Scotland. Almost a decade later, Ken Dornstein set out to solve the riddle of his older brother's life, using the notebooks and manuscripts that David left behind. In the process, he also began to create a new life of his own. *The Boy Who Fell Out of the Sky* is the unforgettable story of one man's search for the truth about his brother—and himself (www.bn.com, quoting the publisher).

Cold Sassy Tree -- Olive Ann Burns

"Olive Ann Burns has given us a timeless, funny, resplendent novel -- about a romance that rocks an entire town, about a boy's passage through the momentous but elusive year when childhood melts into adolescence, and about just how people lived and died in a small Southern town at the turn of the century. Inhabited by characters who are wise and loony, unimpeachably pious and deliciously irreverent, Cold Sassy, Georgia, is the perfect setting for the debut of a storyteller of rare brio, exuberance, and style" (www.bn.com).

Double Helix – Nancy Werlin

"Eli, just graduating from high school, has been offered a job as a lab assistant at Wyatt Transgenics. It sounds like a great position, but his father doesn't want him to take it and won't explain why. Eli knows that something went on between his parents and Dr. Wyatt in the past, but his father won't talk about it and his mother is too ill with Huntington's disease to communicate at all. Eli decides to take the job in spite of his father, but he discovers that there is more to the place than he had first suspected" (KLIATT - Paula Rohrlack, www.bn.com, Rhode Island Teen Book Award 2006 Nominee).

Dreams from My Father – Barack Obama

"In this lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey—first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father's life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance" (www.bn.com, quoting the publisher).

Farewell to Manzanar -- Jeanne W. Houston

The 1940s were a dark time in America. This true story revolves around the experiences of a Japanese American child whose family was sent to a detention camp during World War II. A sad but inspiring story, it focuses on the will to survive and the courage to face hardship and prejudice.

The Glass Castle: A Memoir – Jeannette Walls

"Walls, who spent years trying to hide her childhood experiences, allows the story to spill out in this remarkable recollection of growing up. From her current perspective as a contributor to MSNBC online, she remembers the poverty, hunger, jokes, and bullying she and her siblings endured, and she looks back at her parents: her flighty, self-indulgent mother, a Pollyanna unwilling to assume the responsibilities of parenting, and her father, troubled, brilliant Rex, whose ability to turn his family's downward-spiraling circumstances into adventures allowed his children to excuse his imperfections until they grew old enough to understand what he had done to them — and to himself. His grand plans to build a home for the family never evolved: the hole for the foundation of the "The Glass Castle," as the dream house was called, became the family garbage dump, and, of course, a metaphor for Rex Walls' life. Shocking, sad, and occasionally bitter, this gracefully written account speaks candidly, yet with surprising affection, about parents and about the strength of family ties — or both good and ill" (www.amazon.com).

The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams

“Amanda Wingfield lives in a St. Louis tenement, clinging to the myth of her early years as a Southern belle. Her daughter Laura, who wears a leg brace, is painfully shy and often seeks solace in her collection of small glass animals. Amanda’s son Tom is desperate to escape his stifling home life and his warehouse job” (*Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature*, quoted by www.amazon.com).

Icy Sparks -- Gwyn Hyman Rubio

“This enthralling story takes us into the heart and mind of little Icy Sparks, where we learn firsthand what it is like to grow up with a serious disability. Raised in backwoods Kentucky by her maternal grandparents, Matanni and Patanni, Icy would have had a hard enough life even without the onset of Tourette’s syndrome at the age of ten. The violent spasms, croaks, and popping eyes earn her the nickname “frog child,” and we see how her childhood is marred by the humiliation of the illness” (www.amazon.com, quoting Marjorie Lemon, *Library Journal*, 2002).

In Cold Blood – Truman Capote

“Until one morning in mid-November of 1959, few Americans—in fact, few Kansans—had ever heard of Holcomb. . . . If all Truman Capote did was invent a new genre—journalism written with the language and structure of literature—this “nonfiction novel” about the brutal slaying of the Clutter family by two would-be robbers would be remembered as a trail-blazing experiment that has influenced countless writers. But Capote achieved more than that. He wrote a true masterpiece of creative nonfiction. The images of this tale continue to resonate in our minds: 16-year-old Nancy Clutter teaching a friend how to bake a cherry pie, Dick Hickock’s black ’49 Chevrolet sedan, Perry Smith’s Gibson guitar and his dreams of gold in a tropical paradise--the blood on the walls and the final ‘thud-snap’ of the rope-broken necks” (www.amazon.com).

Inherit the Wind – Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

“The accused was a slight, frightened man who had deliberately broken the law. His trial was a Roman circus. The chief gladiators were two great legal giants of the century. Like two bull elephants locked in mortal combat, they bellowed and roared imprecations and abuse. The spectators sat uneasily in the sweltering heat with murder in their hearts, barely able to restrain themselves. At stake was the freedom of every American. One of the most moving and meaningful plays of our generation” [*Inherit the Wind* is based on the historic Scopes Trial of 1925 that pitted evolutionists against creationists] (*New York World-Telegram and Sun*, www.bn.com)

A Lesson Before Dying -- Ernest Gaines

Jefferson is a poor, uneducated black man condemned to die for a crime he did not commit. He forms an unexpected bond with Grant Wiggins, a young male visitor, and together they explore the meaning of heroism. This thoughtful and sensitive novel is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s.

The Lovely Bones: A Novel -- Alice Sebold

“When we first meet 14-year-old Susie Salmon, she is already in heaven. This was before milk carton photos and public service announcements, she tells us; back in 1973, when Susie mysteriously disappeared, people still believed these things didn’t happen. In the sweet, untroubled voice of a precocious teenage girl, Susie relates the awful events of her death, and her own adjustment to the strange new place she finds herself. . . . this story of seemingly unbearable tragedy is transformed into a suspenseful, touching, even funny novel about family, memory, love, heaven, and living (www.amazon.com).

My Sister’s Keeper – Jodi Picoult

“Imagine that you were conceived to be the donor of bone marrow and platelets for your older sister, who has a rare form of cancer. Imagine what it would be like to grow up in a family where everyone is constantly aware of one child’s deadly illness, so that all decisions must be filtered through what will work for her treatment or her most recent medical emergency. How can a 12-year-old decide against donating a kidney to her older sister? By having this story narrated by each character in turn, Picoult shows readers the dilemmas facing everyone involved: from Anna, the child who sues her parents for medical emancipation; to Sara, the mother who loves all three of her children but must devote continual attention to the daughter with cancer; and to Jesse, the son who has abandoned hope of ever being noticed by his parents” (www.bn.com, quoting Kim Uden Rutter in *Library Journal*).

New Boy – Julian Houston

“As the first black student in an elite Connecticut boarding school in the late 1950s, Rob Garrett, 16, knows he is making history. He works hard not to fall off the honor roll, even as he misses his home in Virginia and feels like a stranger in the dorm and in class. When his friends in the South plan a sit-in against segregation, he knows he must be part of it. The author of this powerful debut novel, now a judge in Massachusetts, writes from the inside about the civil rights struggle, always clear about the blatant racism (the *n*-word is used throughout) and the differences within the African American community as they cut across class, region, and generations. . . . the honest first-person narrative makes stirring drama, touching on the fear

and exhilaration of the group protests and the segregation in unexpected places, as well as Rob's personal discovery of failure and courage" (www.amazon.com, quoting Hazel Rochman, *Booklist*, American Library Association).

Rescuing Patty Hearst: Memories from a Decade Gone Mad – Virginia Holman

"In this searing memoir of her mother's psychotic unraveling and her family's struggle to survive it, Holman draws parallels between the uncertainty and craziness of the times and the dislocation within her own family. Holman switches between the early 1970s when her mother's decline began and the year 2000, trying to reconcile her past and her present, to make sense of her mother's breakdown and her personal fear that she may have inherited her mother's mental illness. Holman was nine years old when she and her baby sister were whisked away by their mother to the family's drafty summer cottage on a deluded secret mission. Holman's mother heard voices telling her to prepare for a secret war by setting up a field hospital. . . . This is a frightening look at the impact of mental instability upon family members and their struggle to acknowledge the illness in order to can get help" (www.amazon.com, quoting Vanessa Bush in *Booklist*).

The Things They Carried -- Tim O'Brien

First published in 1979, *The Things They Carried* "is an unparalleled Vietnam testament, a classic study of men at war that brilliantly -- and painfully -- illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul. Focusing on the members of a single platoon . . . the 22 interconnected stories catalogue not only the things they carried into battle -- M-16s, grenade launchers, candy, Kool-Aid, and cigarettes -- but more importantly, the things they carried inside, and the nightmares they carried home" (www.bn.com).

The Sledding Hill – Chris Crutcher

"Eddie Proffit suffers 'a hurricane of calamity' (p. 19) when he first finds his father dead at the family gas station and only two months later finds his best friend, Billy, dead in the school gymnasium. In that moment, Eddie stops speaking. Speaking is the only piece of his life that he can control. When he stops speaking, Eddie begins to listen, really listen, to those around him: Billy reaching out from the dead, Reverend Tarter trying to control his students and censor their experiences, and newfound friends confessing to being alone and afraid. When Eddie begins speaking again at a church service, he has a great deal to say, much to the chagrin of Reverend Tarter. In his first novel for a middle-grades audience, Crutcher masterfully captures the pain of adolescence: surviving death, strained family relationships, and questioning your faith" (www.bn.com, quoting Faith H. Wallace in *Alan Review*).

Wish You Well – David Baldacci (A Read Across America Selection)

"The year is 1940. After a car accident kills 12-year-old Lou's and 7-year-old Oz's father and leaves their mother Amanda in a catatonic trance, the children find themselves sent from New York City to their great-grandmother Louisa's farm in Virginia. Louisa's hardscrabble existence comes as a profound shock to precocious Lou and her shy brother. Still struggling to absorb their abandonment, they enter gamely into a life that tests them at every turn--and offers unimaginable rewards. For Lou, who dreams of following in her father's literary footsteps, the misty, craggy Appalachians and the equally rugged individuals who make the mountains their home quickly become invested with an almost mythic significance" (www.amazon.com, quoting Kelly Flynn).

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl – Timothy Egan

"Pulitzer Prizewinning *New York Times* journalist and author Timothy Egan follows a half-dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the region, going from sod huts to new framed houses to basements with the windows sealed by damp sheets in a futile effort to keep the dust out. He follows their desperate attempts to carry on through blinding black blizzards, crop failure, and the death of loved ones. Drawing on the voices of those who stayed and survived those who, now in their eighties and nineties, will soon carry their memories to the grave, Egan tells a story of endurance and heroism against the backdrop of the Great Depression. Egan captures the very voice of the times — its grit, pathos, and abiding heroism — as only great history can. Combining the human drama of *Isaac's Storm* with the sweep of *The American People in the Great Depression*, *The Worst Hard Time* is a lasting and important work of American history" (www.amazon.com).