

## 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 first week 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 libraries, bookstores, trade books among themselves, and preview or purchase books by visiting [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.borders.com](http://www.borders.com), or [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com).**

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 and on the district's web site <http://www.bsd-ri.net/> during the summer. 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.

Expectation:	2. All students will effectively utilize literacy skills: writing, listening, speaking, and reading analysis and interpretation.
Requirement:	<b>6. Summer Reading Project</b>
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 12**

**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 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes**

**English 12 Standard and Academy English II – Choose One**

**Grendel -- John Gardner**

“Gardner’s 1971 classic takes the Anglo Saxon *Beowulf* epic and uses varying translations of the poem and other writings from the period to tell the story from the poor monster’s viewpoint. . . . The monster observes humans from a revealing and telling vantage. Just like a child in the schoolyard, Grendel picks up certain curse words and takes joy in repeating them. This has resulted in Gardner’s book being challenged at the many schools where it is rightfully part of the curriculum. This is

storytelling at its best” [Some of the content is intended for mature readers, as it contains graphic language and sexual references.]. (www.amazon.com).

**OR**

**Frankenstein -- Mary Shelley**

In his desire to create life, Victor Frankenstein produces a monster of epic proportions. Abandoned by Victor and rejected by society, the monster is consumed by his horrific appearance, his loneliness, and his unparalleled pain and seeks revenge on his creator. Shelley’s classic novel raises critical issues about the role of science in human life.

**OR**

**Lord of the Flies --William Golding**

First published in 1954, this finely crafted novel focuses on a group of English schoolboys stranded on a deserted island when their plane crashes. At first, the boys cooperate, electing Ralph their leader and holding meetings to make decisions. As events unfold, conflict arises on the island. In this classic allegory, Golding explores the nature of man and society, especially the human capacity for evil.

**English 12 Traditional – Choose One**

**Animal Farm -- George Orwell**

“One of Orwell’s finest works, [*Animal Farm*] is a political fable based on the events of Russia’s Bolshevik revolution and the betrayal of the cause by Joseph Stalin. The book concerns a group of barnyard animals who overthrow and chase off their exploitative human masters and set up an egalitarian society of their own. Eventually the animals’ intelligent and power-loving leaders, the pigs, subvert the revolution and form a dictatorship even more oppressive and heartless than that of their former human masters” (*Merriam-Webster’s Encyclopedia of Literature*).

**OR**

**The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde -- Robert Louis Stevenson**

“A lawyer in Victorian London tries to understand the nature of the strange relationship between his physician friend and the cruel and violent man he seems to protect. . . . *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is an “intriguing combination of fantasy thriller and moral allegory [that] depicts the gripping struggle of two opposing personalities — one essentially good, the other evil — for the soul of one man. Its tingling suspense and intelligent and sensitive portrayal of man’s dual nature reveal Stevenson as a novelist of great skill and originality, whose power to terrify and move us remains, over a century later, undiminished” (www.amazon.com).

**OR**

**Beowulf: A New Telling -- Robert Nye**

The murderous monster Grendel has been slaughtering the Danes for twelve long years. King Hrothgar is determined to have Grendel destroyed, but no man in the kingdom dares to challenge the beast. Then Beowulf, a visitor from the neighboring Geatland, offers to rid the country of its curse. In this prose retelling of a famous epic poem, Robert Nye captures the warrior society of the ancient Anglo-Saxons.

**General Reading List for All Standard and Traditional 12<sup>th</sup> Graders – Choose One**

**1984 -- George Orwell**

“The year is 1984; the scene is London, largest population center of Airstrip One. Airstrip One is part of the vast political entity Oceania, which is eternally at war with one of two other vast entities, Eurasia and Eastasia. At any moment, depending upon current alignments, all existing records show either that Oceania has always been at war with Eurasia and allied with Eastasia, or that it has always been at war with Eastasia and allied with Eurasia. Winston Smith knows this, because his work at the Ministry of Truth involves the constant “correction” of such records. “‘Who controls the past,’ ran the Party slogan, ‘controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.’” In a grim city and a terrifying country, where Big Brother is always Watching You and the Thought Police can practically read your mind, Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. He knows the Party’s official image of the world is a fluid fiction. He knows the Party controls the people by feeding them lies and narrowing their imaginations through a process of bewilderment and brutalization that alienates each individual from his fellows and deprives him of every liberating human pursuit from reasoned inquiry to sexual passion. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be” (www.amazon.com).

**The Beekeeper's Apprentice -- Laurie King**

"In 1915, a happily retired Sherlock Holmes is engaged in the study of honeybees on the Sussex Downs. Then he meets Mary Russell, a young twentieth-century lady whose intelligence is equaled only by her "penchant for deduction, disguises, and danger." Under Holmes's reluctant guidance, "Russell embarks on a case involving a landowner's mysterious fever and the kidnapping of an American senator's daughter." A near-fatal bombing sends the two sleuths on the trail of a murderer whose goal is to end both their partnership and their lives" (www.amazon.com).

**Behind the Mask: The Life of Queen Elizabeth the First -- Jane Resh Thomas**

One of the most powerful monarchs in history, Elizabeth I ruled England in an age when women were deemed unfit to occupy the throne. This biography describes her privileged yet cruel childhood, her long, triumphant reign as queen, and the many forces that opposed her. The reader is left with a compelling portrait of Elizabeth the queen and Elizabeth the woman.

**Dante's Daughter—Kimberly Heuston**

". . . the protagonist in this historical novel is a strong young woman who chooses her own way. The setting is early fourteenth-century Italy and France, and the narrator is Antonia Alighieri, the daughter of the great writer Dante. The story begins when Antonia, five years old, is at home with her bitter, abandoned mother. It then follows her as a young teen in Paris with her brilliant, self-absorbed father, and culminates after she returns to the artistic family-community in Siena, Italy, where she struggles to find work, love, and independence. Heuston has clearly done her research, but the wealth of historical, political, and artistic detail nearly overwhelms the story. What will hold readers is the honest family picture; the gifted father's dedication to his work and himself truly hurts his wife and daughter. Antonia's struggle as an artist also provides a fascinating glimpse of early feminism—a working commune might be an alternative to a convent, and a woman finds love without just being "a luscious peach ready to be picked" (www.amazon.com, quoting Hazel Rochman, American Library Association).

**Hard Times -- Charles Dickens**

"Set amid smokestacks and factories, Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* is a blistering portrait of Victorian England as it struggles with the massive economic turmoil brought on by the Industrial Revolution. Championing the mind-numbing materialism of the period is Thomas Gradgrind, one of Dickens's most vivid characters. He opens the novel by arguing that boys and girls should be taught "nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life." Forbidding the development of imagination, Gradgrind is ultimately forced to confront the results of his philosophy — his own daughter's terrible unhappiness. Full of suspense, humor, and tenderness, *Hard Times* is a brilliant defense of art in an age of mechanism" (www.amazon.com).

**Heloise and Abelard: A New Biography -- James Burge**

"The romance of Héloïse and Abelard remains one of the greatest love stories of all time — one of forbidden love; the eventual lifelong separation of the lovers, cloistered in a monastery and convent; and the vengeful castration of Abelard by Héloïse's uncle. More tantalizingly, we know of the affair only from eight surviving letters between the couple. But British *Sunday Independent* columnist Burge draws on 113 recently translated letters that have been attributed to the lovers. Based on all of these letters, Burge analyzes the feelings and states of mind of the correspondents, and he can be a bit pedantic at times. But who can fail to be moved by the passion expressed in the letters? "Even during the celebration of the Mass," Héloïse famously wrote, "when our prayers should be purest, lewd visions of the pleasures we shared take... a hold on my unhappy soul...." Burge relates Abelard's theological struggles with the medieval Church, especially with the powerful Cistercian leader Bernard of Clairvaux. Unlike in previous biographies, Héloïse emerges as a leader, too, in her role as abbess of the Paraclete, which she developed into a substantial institution. A complex woman, she sought a unified sense of self that would incorporate both her sexuality and her religious faith" (www.amazon.com).

**I Am Mordred -- Nancy Springer**

"From his birth, Mordred, the illegitimate son of King Arthur, has been destined to kill his father. "Young Mordred struggles with his fate, loathing the great king who tried to kill him as a baby, yet journeying to Camelot where he learns to serve and idolize the legendary leader. Torn between feelings of love and hate, Mordred yearns to make peace with Arthur, who still refuses to acknowledge him. But Mordred is determined to have peace at any price—even if it costs him his soul" (www.amazon.com).

**The Memory of Running: A Novel -- Ron McLarty**

"Smithy Ide is a really nice guy. But he's also an overweight, friendless, womanless, hard-drinking, 43-year-old self-professed loser with... a dead-end job, given to stammering "I just don't know" in life's confusing moments. When Smithy's

entire family dies, he embarks on a transcontinental bicycle trip to recover his sister's body and rediscover what it means to live. Along the way, he flashes back to his past and the hardships of his beloved sister's schizophrenia, while his dejection encourages strangers to share their life stories. The road redeems the innocent Smithy: he loses weight; rescues a child from a blizzard; rebuffs the advances of a nubile, "apple-breasted" co-cyclist after seeing a vision of his dead sister; and nurtures a telephone romance with a paraplegic family friend as he processes his rocky past. McLarty, a playwright and television actor, propels the plot with glib mayhem — including three tragic car accidents in 31 pages and a death by lightning bolt — and a lot of bighearted and warm but faintly mournful humor. It's a funny, poignant, slightly gawky debut that aims, like its protagonist, to please — and usually does" (www.amazon.com, quoting *Publisher's Weekly*).

**The King's Shadow -- Elizabeth Alder**

*The King's Shadow* is set in eleventh-century Britain and tells the tale of a slave who becomes the chronicler of Harold, last of the Saxon kings. Narrated by Evyn, a sympathetic observer, the lively, fast paced story portrays the harsh conditions and customs of medieval life.

**A Man for All Seasons: A Play in Two Acts -- Robert Bolt**

"This classic play tells the story of Sir Thomas More, the Lord Chancellor who refused to compromise and was executed by Henry VIII. In *A Man for All Seasons*, Bolt "depicts the confrontation between church and state, theology and politics, absolute power and individual freedom. Throughout the play Sir Thomas More's eloquence and endurance, his purity, saintliness and tenacity in the face of ever-growing threats to his beliefs and family, earn him status as one of modern drama's greatest tragic heroes" (www.methuen.co.uk).

**Much Ado About Nothing -- William Shakespeare**

"*Much Ado About Nothing* boasts one of Shakespeare's most delightful heroines, most dancing wordplay, and the endearing spectacle of intellectual and social self-importance bested by the desire to love and be loved in return. It offers both the dancing wit of the "merry war" between the sexes, and a sobering vision of the costs of that combat for both men and women. Shakespeare dramatizes a social world in all of its vibrant particulars, in which characters are shaped by the relations between social convention and individual choice" (www.bn.com).

**Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You -- Janna Jansen**

"The patient encouragement of the author to help her adopted daughter, Jeanne d'Arc Umubyeyi, come to terms with her memories provides the frame for this account of genocide in Rwanda in 1994. When Jeanne was eight, Hutu neighbors massacred her family and destroyed her home; she witnessed the murder of her mother and brother, as well as other Tutsis, strangers and family friends. Beautifully crafted and smoothly translated, this searing novel is all the more remarkable for the sense of place it conveys through vividly remembered details of an African world where the mundane experiences of daily life were cataclysmically interrupted by a few months of unimaginable violence. Jeanne's courage, will to live, and understandable anger come through clearly, leading readers to wonder how a person or a country can ever recover from such events. The young woman's adoptive mother's childhood memories, mentioned in one of the chapter introductions, make explicit the connection between Rwanda and Germany. The title, taken from a story Jeanne's grandmother told, also reminds readers of the importance of human connections and continued trust. Painful to read, but unforgettable, this book will provoke thought and discussion" (www.amazon.com, quoting Kathleen Isaacs, Towson University, MD).

**Pygmalion -- George Bernard Shaw**

"One of Shaw's best works, *Pygmalion* is a perceptive comedy of wit and wisdom about the unique relationship between a spunky cockney flower-girl and her irascible speech professor. The flower girl Eliza Doolittle teaches the egotistical phonetics professor Henry Higgins that to be a lady means more than just learning to speak like one" (www.amazon.com).

**The Six Wives of Henry VIII -- Alison Weir**

"A wonderfully detailed, extensively researched collective biography. Although the book is undoubtedly the work of a Tudor scholar, with sources ranging from previous biographies of these women to private papers, letters, diaries, and diplomatic sources, it is also the work of a competent fiction writer. The narrative is free flowing, humorous, informative, and readable. Weir's research abilities and deductive reasoning have shed a whole new light on the political maneuverings of the era and thus on the myriad forces that drove Henry VIII, his wives, and his children. Personal and obscure facts about the women, Henry's relationship with his nobles, and quirks of the times enliven the text. Genealogical tables for all the families involved are included. This book can be used for research, as it contains a wealth of information. However, students who don't read the whole book (even though its size may intimidate them) are missing a once in a lifetime opportunity to have the Tudor era laid open for them" (www.amazon.com, quoting Debbie Hyman, R. E. Lee High School, Springfield, VA)

**Ten Things I Wish I'd Known Before I Went Out Into the Real World -- Maria Shriver**

“Maria Shriver’s warmth, humor, and wisdom are evident on every page of this little book. Inspired by her commencement speech at the College of the Holy Cross, the book contains stories and insights that will be helpful, entertaining, and encouraging to graduates at every stage of life. The lessons themselves — “be willing to fail,” “stand your ethical ground,” “marriage is a hell of a lot of hard work” — are nothing new. What makes them interesting are the life stories that accompany them and Shriver’s personable, friendly style. Reading this book feels like having a cup of coffee with a wise and funny friend. Tales of her first television experiences are surprising and hilarious, and she takes balancing motherhood and career to new levels — imagine postponing an interview with Fidel Castro to get your daughter to her first day of kindergarten! Each chapter is easy to read and ends with a focused lesson — kind of a bullet point from her original speech—that encourages readers to be ultimately true to themselves and their dreams, while cutting through harmful illusions. The last chapter, on laughter, is one to read again and again. Shriver maintains that without laughter not much else matters, and in life’s toughest times it’s laughter that gets us through. For anyone starting a new adventure — graduation, marriage, parenthood, career shift, or a milestone birthday — *Ten Things I Wish I’d Known* brings wisdom, laughter, practical suggestions, and a down-to-earth manner together into one fabulous gift” (www.amazon.com).

**The Time Machine -- H. G. Wells**

“A scientist invents a time machine and uses it to travel hundreds of thousands of years into the future, where he discovers the childlike Eloi and the hideous underground Morlocks. . . . H.G. Well’s famous novel of one man’s astonishing journey beyond the conventional limits of the imagination first appeared in 1895. It won him immediate recognition and has been regarded ever since as one of the great masterpieces in the literature of science fiction” (www.bn.com).

**The Tragedy of Othello -- William Shakespeare**

“One of the most staged of all of Shakespeare’s plays, *Othello* is a tale of love and betrayal, secrets, passions, and intrigue. Psychology and wit pit strength and virtue against jealousy and evil agendas. The results leave no winners, only tragedy in the lives of the jealous Moor, Othello, and his wife, Desdemona” (www.amazon.com, quoting back cover of text).

**Victoria and the Rogue -- Meg Cabot**

“Growing up in far-off India, wealthy young heiress Lady Victoria Arbuthnot was accustomed to handling her own affairs — not to mention everyone else’s. But in her sixteenth year, Vicky is unceremoniously shipped off to London to find a husband. With her usual aplomb, however, Lady Victoria gets herself engaged to the perfect English gentleman, even before setting foot on British soil. Hugo Rothschild, ninth earl of Malfrey, is everything a girl could want in a future husband: he is handsome and worldly, if not rich. Lady Victoria has everything just as she’d like it. That is, if raffish young ship captain Jacob Carstairs would leave well enough alone. Jacob’s meddling is nothing short of exasperating, and Victoria is mystified by his persistence. But when it becomes clear that young Lord Malfrey just might not be all that he’s professed to be, Victoria is forced to admit, for the first time in her life, that she is wrong. Not only about her fiancé, but about the reason behind the handsome ship captain’s interference” (www.bn.com).

**Wuthering Heights -- Emily Bronte**

The story of *Wuthering Heights* revolves around the bold, violently passionate characters of Heathcliff and Catherine and the twisting, turning paths of their lives. Driven together by hardship as children, they part as adults but are brought back together in a twist of fate that leads to revenge and frustration caused by thwarted love. The wild, lonely English moors provide the setting for this tale of passion and sorrow.

**Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague -- Geraldine Brooks**

“The historical novel is based on the actual lead-mining village of Eyam, Derbyshire, whose inhabitants voluntarily quarantined themselves for a year when stricken with Bubonic Plague in 1665-1666. Anna Frith, widowed at 18 by a mining accident, is the mother of two young boys. Through her recollections, readers live through the year as her endurance and abilities are sorely tested. Anna works for the new young minister’s wife, who teaches her to read and becomes more of a companion than a mistress. At her employers’ suggestion, Anna takes in a boarder to help meet expenses. The man is a tailor and when a shipment of fabrics, apparently flea infested, is delivered from London, the plague is suddenly upon them. The minister convinces his flock to make the supreme sacrifice and arranges for food and supplies to be delivered to the outskirts of the hamlet. The story is a portrait of the best and worst in people faced with sorrow, terror, and death. . . . Through it all, however, Anna grows in strength, abilities, and understanding . . .” (www.amazon.com).