

Welcome Junior Honors Student:

Below you will find a list of summer reading and writing assignments to be completed by the first day of class in 2009. You will notice the majority of the books are non-fiction. During the school year we will be reading five fictional works, closely tied to your eleventh-grade study of early-American history.

Come to class well prepared. During the first week of school, you will be assessed in a variety of ways concerning your summer reading.

Required Reading:

- *On Writing Well: the Classic Guide to Writing Non-fiction*, by William Zinsser
- *I am a Stranger Here Myself*, by Bill Bryson, contemporary essayist
- *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien
- *Freakonomics: a Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, by Levitt and Dubner

Reading Choices (Choose one of the following):

- *Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger
- *Slaughterhouse Five*, by Kurt Vonnegut
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon

Required Writing:

- You are required to keep a reader's journal, taking notes on your reading that will serve as discussion topics in class and study guides for assessments.
- You are to **compose and mail** a one-page (no more, no less), typed, double-spaced letter to the Junior Honors English teacher in which you introduce yourself in a manner that reveals your personality and writing prowess. Mail this letter to: The Junior Honors English Teacher, c/o Abington Heights High School, 222 Noble Road, Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Make sure that your name is written clearly in the return-address portion of the envelope.

These books will be available at a variety of prices through a range of publishers. All local bookstores cooperate with the school district and purchase multiple copies of the texts for purchase by our students. One such bookstore is Border's near the Viewmont Mall. Another option is Amazon.com for new and used editions. The Scranton and Abington Libraries also have several of these titles available. Please read the full texts, rather than abridged options for each title.

Looking forward to a productive year,

The Junior Honors English Teacher