



Saint Joseph High School

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June 2009

To Parents/Guardians and Students:

One of the primary goals of the English Department is to encourage an appreciation for literature in its various forms. The department has re-designed the summer reading program to encourage students to become life-long and year-round readers. For this summer we have chosen books that offer themes to be discussed throughout the school year. All of these books are available at local libraries and bookstores.

When school resumes in August, students will be given a test on each of these books; therefore, students should pay attention to events in the plot, symbolism, characterization, theme, and significance of the title. They will also be responsible for any class activities or writing assignments that the teacher deems appropriate. Only in-coming freshmen are required to complete a Freshmen Active Reader Strategies Worksheet for each novel or play. Enclosed is a copy of the worksheet. It is also posted on the school website.

In addition, the prompt for the school wide Proficiency Of Writing Test (P.O.W.) that will be administered the first week of September to the juniors and the seniors and the last week of October to the sophomores will be based on one of these works.

It is our hope that students will find these books a positive addition to their summer reading plans. To further enhance enjoyment and understanding of these novels, we encourage students to discuss the books with their parents/guardians.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Elaine Borgonia, department chair, at eborgonia@sj-jester.org.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,
The SJHS English Department

GRADE NINE**English I**

- House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

English I Honors***

- A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Animal Farm by George Orwell

***Students qualifying for the Honors course will receive an invitation in late June 2009. In the meantime, please begin your reading with To Kill a Mockingbird.

GRADE TEN**English II**

- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë
- Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand

English II Honors

- Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger
- A book (fiction or nonfiction) of your choice that is at least 150 pages long (*Assessment for this work will be determined by the instructor.*)

GRADE ELEVEN**English III**

- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger
- A book (fiction or nonfiction) of your choice that is at least 150 pages long (*Assessment for this work will be determined by the instructor.*)

AP Language and Composition

- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- A Passage to India by E. M. Forster
- 1984 by George Orwell
- Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare
- The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (*Assessment will be conducted as a 3-day literary chat with the instructor during the summer. Each Lit-Chat session is a two-hour discussion of a selected work.*)

GRADE TWELVE**English IV**

- 1984 by George Orwell
- The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
- A book (fiction or nonfiction) of your choice that is at least 150 pages long (*Assessment for this work will be determined by the instructor.*)

AP Literature and Composition

- Poetics by Aristotle
- Oedipus the King by Sophocles
- Julius Caesar, King Lear, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Othello by William Shakespeare (*Assessment includes a literary discussion posted on the web.*)

Contemporary Literature and Women's Literature:

- Alas, Babylon by Pat Frank
- Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel
- Beloved by Toni Morrison

Freshmen Active Reader Strategies Worksheet

Name _____ Block _____ Book / Play _____

Directions: Fill out this form as you read your book or play, one for each text required for summer reading. **You must turn in all forms on the first day of the 2009-2010 school year in order to receive credit.** Please use only the space provided; did not add any other sheets of paper.

Plot: Briefly explain the plot using only the space provided. Bullet points are acceptable.

Character: Keep track of three to five significant characters and provide brief descriptions for each.

Setting: Keep track of significant places (countries, states, cities, towns, houses, and other locations) in the text.

Language: Provide a list of 10 words you don't understand along with a brief dictionary definition as it applies in the text.

Theme: Briefly explain the main message of the novel or play.