

June 2008

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 summer reading program is designed to encourage students to become life-long and year-round readers. 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 are to turn in the novel worksheets that were given to them by their instructors. (A copy of this worksheet has been included for you convenience.) Also, 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. In addition, the schoolwide writing proficiency test (P.O.W.) that will be administered in September to English II, English III, and English IV students will be based on 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.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,
The SJHS English Department

As English I and English I Honors are survey of literature courses and not typing or word processing classes, the English Department requires that all in-coming freshmen have at least a basic working knowledge of Microsoft word or another word processing program. Please make allowances for you daughter to acquire these skills, albeit rudimentary, this summer.

GRADE NINE:

English I and English Honors

English I:

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakasuki Houston

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

English I Honors:

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakasuki Houston

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry***

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

***Students qualifying for the Honors course will receive an invitation in late June 2006. Please wait for this invitation. In the meantime, begin your reading with Farewell to Manzanar and To Kill a Mockingbird.

Summer Reading Active Reader Strategies

Name _____ Block _____ Title _____

Directions: Fill out this form as you read your book or play, **one for each summer reading book**. You must turn in all three forms on the first day of the 2008-2009 school year in order to receive credit. You may use additional paper if you wish.

Plot: BRIEFLY EXPLAIN THE PLOT **USING ONLY THE SPACE PROVIDED:**

Character: Keep track of **THREE significant characters** and provide brief descriptions for each include physical as well as personality traits:

PROTAGONIST:

ANTAGONIST:

ONE SIGNIFICANT MINOR CHARACTER:

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

Language: Provide 1 example of figurative language FOR EACH LISTED. Please use direct quotes:

METAPHOR:

SIMILIE:

PERSONAFICATION:

HYPERBOLE:

Theme: Briefly explain the **MAIN MESSAGE** of the book.