

May, 2009

Summer Reading

The English Department at Los Gatos High School feels strongly that reading is one of the most important activities of a student's education. It is a worthwhile way to expand one's knowledge of great literature and of other cultures and to make a constructive use of leisure time. Therefore, we are continuing the summer reading program for all students in our college preparatory classes. Each student will be asked to read at least one designated book over the summer and prepare for discussions and tests in the fall.

We strongly encourage the student to expand his or her personal library by purchasing the book. It will be available at Borders Books & Music in Old Town, and Barnes & Noble at either the Pruneyard or on Stevens Creek Boulevard in San Jose. However, if purchasing the book is not possible, the student may check a copy out from a library or through our textbook office. Of course, there are real advantages to having one's own book. Parts can be marked, sentences can be underlined, and questions and comments can be written in the margin.

SUGGESTED GUIDE FOR CLOSE READING

Though the following will not be collected, knowing this information will help you understand the books and better prepare you for class discussions:

- 1) Identify the protagonist. With what is the protagonist in conflict? What are the protagonist's values? How does he/she change?
- 2) Summarize the plot. Make sure you can clearly present what happens by using details from the text.
- 3) Identify the climax of the book, noting important description, conversation, and action.
- 4) Note the use of figurative language, marking or writing down the best examples.

BOOKS DESIGNATED FOR EACH COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE LEVEL:

- Entering English 9: *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
Entering English 10: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
Entering English 11: *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer
Entering English 12: *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

BOOKS DESIGNATED FOR EACH HONORS COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE LEVEL:

Entering 9X: *Ender's Game* - Card

AND (choose 1, but the other one will be the first outside reading book, so you may want to purchase both)

The Chosen - Potok

OR

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn - Smith

Entering 10X: *Brave New World* - Huxley

The Dispossessed - LeGuin

AND

(the choice of either)

Separate Peace - Knowles

Lord of the Flies - Golding

Entering 11X: *East of Eden* - Steinbeck

Eats, Shoots, and Leaves - Truss

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - Kesey

AND

Death of a Salesman - Miller

Entering 12X: Choose **3 books** by the same author on the list to analyze for both theme and style.