

# Summer Reading Program

2010-11  
Grade Nine



## Morris Hills Regional District



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Dear Incoming 9th Graders and Parents:

Welcome to the Morris Hills Regional District. We look forward to meeting and working with you in the fall. Because we believe it is important for students to continue to develop reading and vocabulary during the summer months, we designed a Summer Reading Program. ***This program is mandatory for all students enrolled in Survey of Literature & Composition and voluntary for students enrolled in all other English courses.*** Titles and authors, as well as guidelines, are available in this booklet. If you complete the summer reading and related assignments, your teacher will award extra credit toward your first marking period grade.

We look forward to seeing you in September, hope you enjoy your summer, and encourage you to participate in our summer reading program.

Sincerely,

Morris Hills Regional District  
English Department

## SELECTING READINGS

When planning your summer reading, please choose one work from any one of the two categories noted.

If you participate in the summer reading program, you will be held accountable for your reading through an assignment specified by your grade 9 English teacher for the next school year. In addition to this assignment, you must keep a reading log. This must be submitted, and it will be a part of the extra credit grade. For the additional future assignment (that will be given by the individual teacher) you might, for example, be asked to present an oral report; prepare a review; or create a poster, collage, or portfolio.

## YOUR READING LOG/NOTES JOURNAL

### Some Guidelines and Recommendations

Use a binder or standard notebook paper; if you use looseleaf paper, please clip it into a binder. Be sure to date each of your entries and number each page of your log/notes. As you read, write your personal responses to the work. State your feelings, thoughts, reactions, and questions about situations, ideas, actions, characters, settings, symbols, plot, theme, and any other elements of the work which interest you or mean something to you. Though it is important that you quickly write down ideas as they occur to you, **please remember that your log will be read by your teacher and graded, so it must be neat and legible.** Computer generated logs are acceptable and encouraged. **Your log should not exceed the equivalent of three typewritten pages.**

In your log take risks and be honest. For example, write about what you like or dislike, what seems confusing or unusual to you. Tell what you think something means. Look for examples of writing you particularly like or dislike and comment about them. Make predictions about what might happen later. Relate your personal experiences which connect with the plot, characters, or setting. In your log quote brief passages from the work and respond to them. Try to relate this work to another work you've read. How are they alike? How are they different? Avoid plot summary. Simply read, think, and write your thoughts.

Let your voice be heard.

The following is a list of some suggested lead-ins for your log:

- 1 I wonder what this means...
- 2 I really don't understand this part because...
- 3 I really like/dislike this idea because...
- 4 This character reminds me of somebody I know because...
- 5 This character reminds me of myself because...
- 6 This character is like (name of character) in (title of work) because...
- 7 I think this setting is important because...
- 8 This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of work) because...
- 9 This part is very realistic/unrealistic because...
- 10 This section is particularly effective because...
- 11 This section makes me think about/because...
- 12 I think the relationship between\_\_\_\_and\_\_\_\_is interesting because...
- 13 The ideas here remind me of the ideas in (title of work) because...
- 14 I like/dislike (name of character) because...
- 15 This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life.  
It happened when...
- 16 The character I most admire is\_\_\_\_because...
- 17 If I were (name of character) at this point, I would...

### **REMEMBER:**

- 1 The reading log should allow you to place your mental responses on paper.
- 2 Try to write as you read. Getting thoughts, ideas, and feelings down as they occur is important.
- 3 Try to make **connections** between what you are reading and your own life.
- 4 When possible, make connections between different works that you have read or are reading. Look for the similarities in ideas, characters, situations, etc. (or the differences).
- 5 Your log will be graded. It should be neatly assembled, legible, and written in the format outlined in this booklet.
- 6 Computer generated logs are acceptable and encouraged.
- 7 Your log should not exceed the equivalent of **THREE TYPEWRITTEN PAGES**.
- 8 **Your log will be collected by your teacher on the first day of class. Bring it with you.**
- 9 **Summer reading is mandatory for students enrolled in Survey of Literature & Composition.**

## CATEGORY 1 - NOVELS

Anderson, Laurie Halse - *Twisted* - After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl; but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

Anderson, M. T. – *Feed* – In a society where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who wants to control herself.

Auch, Mary Jane – *Ashes of Roses* – Sixteen-year-old Margaret Rose Nolan, newly arrived from Ireland, finds work at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory shortly before the 1911 fire in which 146 employees died.

Bradbury, Ray – *Fahrenheit 451* – In a future when books are banned and destroyed by the government, a fireman in charge of the burning becomes involved with a schoolteacher who flaunts the law by collecting and reading books.

Brasheres, Ann – *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* (series of 4) – Four friends discover that jeans from a thrift shop provide an uncanny fit for all four of them, so they form a sisterhood with the pants as the symbol of their friendship, and they spend each summer leaning about life and themselves.

Burns, Olive Ann – *Cold Sassy Tree* – In a rural Georgia town at the turn of the century, the general store owner starts a scandal by marrying a woman half his age, a union coming only three weeks after the death of his previous wife. His grandson, the 14 year old narrator, becomes the confidante and staunch defender of this unlikely couple in this story of love, death, coming of age, and the ties that bind families and generations.

Card, Orson Scott – *Ender's Game* – In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers, and Andrew "Ender" Wiggin is the brilliant young boy who is the prime candidate to be Earth's perfect general.

Craven, Margaret – *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* – A young vicar is sent to a remote Canadian village not knowing he has less than three years to live, and he comes to understand the language and ways of the Kwakiutl Indians around him and sees how their traditions are being destroyed through the influence of white men.

Crutcher, Chris – *Crazy Horse Electric Game* – A high school athlete, frustrated at being handicapped after an accident, runs away from home and is helped back to mental and physical health by a black benefactor and the people in a special school where he enrolls.

## CATEGORY 1 - NOVELS (Continued)

Donnelly, Jennifer - *A Northern Light* – In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest.

Green, John - *An Abundance of Katherines* - Colin is working on a theorem to predict the outcome of love. Hassan, his best friend, provides Colin with the comic relief that he desperately needs; and Lindsey, a new friend, may help to break the cycle of Katherines.

Hoffman, Alice – *Blackbird House* – On a farm outside Cape Cod, Blackbird House interconnects the lives and loves of over a dozen men and women in narratives that reveal terrible secrets, inspired beauty, and a spirit of coming home.

Kidd, Sue Monk – *The Secret Life of Bees* – After her “stand-in mother,” a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

Lupica, Mike- *Miracle on 49th Street* - After the death of her mother, a young girl sets out to find her father who is a professional basketball player and not at all happy to see her.

McCarthy, Cormac – *All the Pretty Horses* – A sixteen year-old boy and his female friend leave their Texas hometown and travel to Mexico by horse, where they pick up a fourteen year old marksman as a sidekick before encountering corrupt Mexican officials, enigmatic bandits, and unforgiving desert weather in this coming of age story.

Nix, Garth – *Old Kingdom Series (Sabriel, Lirael, or Abhorsen)* – This trilogy of fantasy delves deeply into the mystical underworld of necromancy, magic, and the monstrous undead, where forces of good are determined to help save the Old Kingdom from destruction by the horrible forces of the evil undead.

Orwell, George – *1984* – In a futuristic world where Big Brother is always watching and the Thought Police can practically read minds, citizens are controlled through alienation and dehumanization, but one individual finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization dedicated to the destruction of the Party.

Potok, Chaim – *The Chosen* – Two fathers and their sons feel pressures when they pursue their respective religions in this exploration of fathers, sons, faith, loyalty, and, ultimately, the power of love.

Pullman, Philip – *His Dark Materials series (The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, or The Amber Spyglass)* – In this epic fantasy trilogy, Pullman unlocks the door to worlds parallel to our own, where demons and winged creatures live side by side with humans, and a mysterious entity called Dust just might have the power to unite the universes - if it isn't destroyed first.

### CATEGORY 1 - NOVELS (Continued)

Reisert, Rebecca – *The Third Witch* – Growing up in Birnam Wood sheltered by two wise women with powers of alchemy and prophecy, Gilly is haunted by fading memories of a past torn apart by tragedy and embarks on a quest for vengeance against Macbeth, the man she blames for destroying her life.

Roth, Philip – *The Plot Against America* – After defeating Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 Presidential election, renowned aviation hero Charles Lindbergh blames Jewish people for pushing America toward war while he negotiates an “understanding” with Adolph Hitler, thus setting off a menacing time period for Jews in America in this alternate history novel.

Shepard, Sara - *Pretty Little Liars* - Alison has been missing for three years and her tightly-knit group of friends has drifted apart. They are brought back together when they all begin receiving strange emails and text messages from “-A,” a mysterious stalker.

### CATEGORY 2 - NON-FICTION & BIOGRAPHY

Bissinger, H.G. – *Three Nights in August: Strategy, Heartbreak, and Joy, Inside the Mind of a Manager* – Get inside the game of baseball through the eyes of the St. Louis Cardinals’ current manager, Tony La Russa, during a three-game series against the Chicago Cubs in the 2003 pennant race.

Borowski, Greg – *First and Long: A Black School, a White School, and their Season of Dreams* – In 2001, two high schools, one suburban and predominantly white, the other Catholic and predominantly black, joined forces to field a football team, where they struggled mightily to win, maintain racial harmony, and keep their fiery coach under control.

Bryson, Bill – *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* – An out-of-shape author and his cranky, unpredictable companion set off to hike the entire Appalachian Trail, recording the amusing misadventures, intriguing characters, and memorable settings of this trail rich in history.

Coffey, Wayne – *The Boys of Winter: the Untold Story of a Coach, a Dream, and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team* – A well-written and thoroughly researched story of the 1980 Olympic gold-medal winning hockey team whose Cinderella championship has become larger than life, replete with drama and drenched in patriotic themes.

Colton, Larry – *Counting Coup: A True Story of Basketball and Honor on the Little Big Horn* – Profiles a Montana high-school girls’ basketball team - made up of Crow Indian and white girls from a rural town - that carries on its shoulders the dreams and hopes of a Native American tribe during their winning season.

Jiang, Ji-li – *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* – Shortly after the start of the Chinese Cultural Revolution in 1966, Ji-li’s father is detained, and she is faced with the most dreadful decision of her young life: denounce him and break with her family, or refuse to testify against him and sacrifice her future in her beloved Communist Party.

### CATEGORY 2 - NON-FICTION & BIOGRAPHY (Continued)

Cox, Lynne - *Grayson* - While training for a long-distance swim off the coast of California, the author encounters a lost baby gray whale that had been following her, and a frantic search for the baby’s mother ensues.

Junger, Sebastian – *The Perfect Storm: a True Story of Men Against the Sea* – In this real-life blockbuster, journalist Sebastian Junger follows the doomed course of fisherman Captain Billy Tyne whose long liner boat *Andrea Gail* and its crew of six disappeared into a ferocious storm caused by the collision of a Canadian air mass and the tropical remnants of Hurricane Grace.

Murphy, Jim – *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* – In a powerful narrative, Murphy describes the illness that took its toll on the residents of Philadelphia in 1793, relating the epidemic to the major social and political events of the day and to 18th-century medical beliefs and practices.

Ralston, Aron – *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* – Aron Ralston’s searing account of a simple hike in the Utah canyonlands that turned tragic when an 800-pound boulder pinned his arm against a canyon wall, leaving him alone in the desert faced with a gruesome life-and-death decision.

Schlosser, Eric – *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* – A journalist explores the homogenization of American culture and the impact of the fast food industry on modern-day health, economy, politics, popular culture, entertainment, and food production.

