

Freshman Summer Reading:

2014-2015

Dear Colts and Colt Parents,

With summer upon us and another school year right around the bend, the English Department wishes to remind you to include summer reading in your vacation activities. Because summer reading is an integral part of the English curriculum, the English Department has gone to great lengths to select works of literary merit which prepare students for their studies next year.

While you read, it is expected that you will complete the attached assignment. You will also be tested over the assigned summer reading once you return to class in August. These assessments are important grades that will follow you all year, so please, *take them seriously and return to school with your work complete.*

These books are all available at local bookstores, at the public library (call for availability), and online. **Please make your summer reading a priority—it is an important and mandatory part of your education!**

English I students are required to read the following book:

- ***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**
 - "Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? In this innovative novel by Walter Dean Myers, the reader becomes both juror and witness during the trial of Steve's life. To calm his nerves as he sits in the courtroom, aspiring filmmaker Steve chronicles the proceedings in movie script format. Interspersed throughout his screenplay are journal writings that provide insight into Steve's life before the murder and his feelings about being held in prison during the trial.

Honors English I students are required to read the following books:

- ***The Call of the Wild* by Jack London**
 - During the Gold Rush, Buck is snatched away from his peaceful home and brought to the harsh and bitter Yukon to become a sled dog. Will he adapt and learn to trust men? Or will his newly awakened primitive instincts lead him to search for the freedom he has never known?
- ***Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar**
 - Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Meanwhile, he's trying his best to capture the attention of Julia, the freshman goddess. In the process, Scott manages to become involved in nearly everything the school has to offer. So while he tries to find his place in the confusing world of high school, win Julia's heart, and keep his sanity, Scott will be recording all the details for his sibling's—and your—enjoyment.