

Sophomore 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 for each book read. 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!**

All sophomores must read one of the following novels:

- ***Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream*** by H.G. Bissinger
 - o The Permian Panthers of Odessa, Texas, have managed to compile the winningest record in state annals. This book chronicles a season in the life of Odessa and shows how single-minded devotion to the team shapes the community and inspires – and sometimes shatters—the teenagers who wear the Panthers’ uniforms.
- ***Ender’s Game*** by Orson Scott Card
 - o Ender Wiggin is one of a group of children bred to be military geniuses and save Earth from an inevitable attack by the alien “buggers.” While Ender becomes unbeatable in war games and seems poised to lead Earth to triumph over the buggers, his brother and sister plot to steal his power. Twists, surprises, and interesting characters make this novel a science-fiction must-read.
- ***Marcelo in the Real World*** by Francisco X. Stork
 - o Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

All honors level sophomores must also read one of the following novels:

- ***The Scarlet Letter*** by Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - o One of the greatest American novels, its themes of sin, guilt, and redemption, are woven through a story of adultery in the early days of the Massachusetts Colony. Enjoy the story of Hester Prynne and her daughter—and learn whether a good man with a dark past can set them free.
- ***Billy Budd*** by Herman Melville
 - o Billy Budd is a Navy sailor accused of mutiny by a fellow officer. What follows is a story of murder, trial, conviction, and execution. The novel presents several different versions of the events and is considered by some to be Melville’s “unfinished” masterpiece, greater even than *Moby Dick*.