



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Herndon High School

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June 10, 2009

Parents, Guardians and Students:

To meet the expectations of the Fairfax County Public Schools for encouraging intellectual growth and critical thinking skills, the Herndon High School English Department requires a summer reading assignment. This assignment, while generally required by Fairfax County, has been shaped by Herndon High to address the needs of our specific Program of Studies and these assignments take the place of the county list in fulfilling this requirement.

The summer reading list for all classes will be sent to area bookstores, including Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million, and Borders. In addition, it will be available on the Herndon High School web site. If no written assignment is specified, students should bring the book with them on the first day of school in September. If a written assignment is required, it will be due on the first day as well.

We want students to take advantage of this opportunity to start the year successfully. We wish you an enjoyable and enriching summer.

Sincerely,

Janice Jewell, Chair
English Department

10th GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT - 2009

The Fairfax County Public Schools High School Summer Reading List was revised in 2006 at the request of teachers, parents, librarians, administrators and students. Fairfax County Public Schools is migrating from a list of specific titles to a genre-based assignment in which students at each grade level may choose their own selections within a framework based on the English Program of Studies.

Recent reports from the National Council of Teachers of English describe guided student choice as a key component in successful summer reading. We hope that greater freedom to choose their own titles will increase students' interest in summer reading, leading to greater reading achievement overall.

Rising Tenth Graders:

Read a nonfiction book. Nonfiction may include autobiography, biography, history, humor or an information book on a topic that interests you.

HERNDON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS **SHOULD NOT READ** THE FOLLOWING TITLES AS THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE 10TH GRADE CURRICULUM:

Night by Elie Wiesel, **Black Boy** by Richard Wright, or **Hiroshima** by John Hersey

Ask for assistance in any library or bookstore to determine if a title is nonfiction.

The following databases and websites are provided for students and their families to help with the selection of an appropriate and interesting title for summer reading.

Fairfax County Public Library: Good Reading

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/goodreading.htm>

This public library website includes links to book lists divided by age-group and genre.

The Great Books Foundation

<http://www.greatbooks.org>

The Great Books Foundation promotes the discussion of great books as an important part of education. They publish lists of recommended books and resources for students through the Junior Great Books program.

Outstanding Books for the College Bound

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistawards/outstandingbooks/outstandingbooks.htm>

This website for college-bound students presents a selection of books from five academic disciplines: history, humanities, literature and language arts, science and technology, and social sciences.

Read the book and have it fresh in your mind when you return to school. You do not need to do any writing; just be ready to write about and share your book when you return to school in the fall. Having a copy of the book with you in class is recommended.