



## WSHS English 12 Summer Reading List 2009-2010

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During the summer months you are required to read at least one of the following books. **(This list supersedes the Fairfax County Summer Reading list.)** There will be a graded assignment on this book in September.

**Please select from the following list:**

**Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*.** This is a Victorian novel at its best. The reader follows Jane from the time she is in a horrible orphanage, where children are abused physically and emotionally, to her release into the world of upper-class England where she becomes the governess for the child of a widower. Here Jane finds momentary happiness, and then a catastrophe occurs. Bronte juggles the many timeless characters she has created with complexity and depth, inviting the reader to become immersed in the lives of mid-19th-century England.

**Cisneros, Sandra. *Woman Hollering Creek: And Other Stories*.** In this collection of Mexican-American stories, Cisneros addresses the reader in a voice that is strong, funny, and sad. Together, these vignettes give a vivid, colorful picture of life where family ties are strong. Aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and other various family members are all present. She writes with humor and love about people she knows intimately, drawing the reader fully into each story.

**O'Brien, Tim. *In the Lake of the Woods*.** Selected by *The New York Times Book Review* as one of the best books of 1994, Tim O'Brien writes a novel of love and mystery. It is a memorable story about a Vietnam veteran, and his marriage which is slowly becoming unraveled. (There are a few instances of raw language, but they are realistic to the situations.)

**Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*.** First published in 1948 in apartheid South Africa, this book is about the power of unity and an author's unflinching hope of a future where segregation no longer exists. The book summons feelings of pride, optimism and anticipation of a long-desired goal. Readers will feel a connection to the characters, and they will see the common thread running throughout the novel. This story is a tribute to man's dignity and perseverance.

**Rostand, Edmond. *Cyrano De Bergerac*.** Set in Louis the XIII's reign, it is the moving drama of one of the finest swordsmen in France. He is a gallant soldier, and a tragic poet, with the face of a clown. Chivalry, bravery and love are captured in this timeless romance.

**Shakespeare, William. *The Taming of the Shrew*.** A humorous battle of the sexes in which a wealthy Italian marries off both his ill-tempered, and sweet-tempered, daughters.