

# *Honors English 9*

## *Summer Reading 2010*

**To:** Incoming Freshmen in Honors English 9  
**From:** Honors English 9 Teachers

Please select two novels from the attached list to read over the summer. You will need to have both books **finished** by the first day of school.

Along with the reading, you will need to select **10** significant passages from EACH novel. These passages should be typed and arranged in the order they appear in the book. Be sure to separate your selected passages with numbers/spaces. After each passage, include the **author's last name** and the **page** the passage is from.

After each citation, write 1-2 paragraphs that explain why you think this quote is significant. You are welcome to make connections to the text as a whole or you can make personal connections.

**“TEXTUAL EXAMPLE” (AUTHOR’S LAST NAME AND PAGE NUMBER)**

“The street is lined with cars. There’s not a breath of fresh air in the neighborhood. The grass don’t grow anymore, you can’t raise a carrot in the back yard. They should’ve had a law against apartment houses. Remember those two beautiful elm trees out there? When I and Biff hung the swing between them?” (Miller 6).

**MY PARAGRAPH**

*I am reminded of my grandparent’s house when reading this. They lived in an apartment building that was surrounded by several other tall city-like buildings. However, there was some natural beauty my siblings and I enjoyed just around the corner. Instead of elm trees there were HUGE pine trees. The pine cones that dropped every year were the size of pumpkins and...*

Please be advised that these assignments are collected, graded, and count as a test grade. Be prepared to use these passages on the first day of school. There will be an additional assignment when you first begin class.

Enjoy and have a great summer!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Lindley-Soucy at the high school over the summer:  
[klindley-soucy@londonderry.org](mailto:klindley-soucy@londonderry.org)

# Honors English 9

## 2010 – 2011 Summer Reading

### *Classic Fiction*

***Cyrano De Bergerac*** – Rostand

Classic drama of chivalry, wit, and bittersweet sadness, told in exquisitely polished language.

***Don Quixote*** – Cervantes

The saga of the fabulous knight and his simple squire and their adventures in medieval Spain.

***Gulliver's Travels and Other Writings*** – Swift

A satire revealing human shortcomings through Gulliver's adventures in fantastic lands.

***The Last of the Mohicans*** – Cooper

Cooper's most famous novel concerning the desperate struggle of the Native Americans against the pressures and restrictions of white civilization.

### *Fiction*

***A Lesson Before Dying*** – Gaines

\*National Book Critics Circle Award

Set in the 1940's, here unfolds a heartbreaking story of friendship between two black men – one wrongly condemned to die and one who's persuaded to impart something of himself.

***Briar Rose*** – Yolen

Disturbed by her grandmother Gemma's unique version of *Sleeping Beauty*, Rebecca seeks truth behind the fairy tale.

***The Contender*** – Lipsyte

Alfred Brooks must placate his Harlem gang – and the white world as well.

***Dacey's Song*** – Voight

\*Newberry Award

A heartwarming novel of the young Tillerman family, led by the eldest sister Dacey.

***The Education of Little Tree*** – Carter

A Cherokee Indian boy growing up in the Tennessee hills with his grandparents during the Depression narrates his story, expressing honesty, innocence, trust in goodness, wrenching unhappiness, and sadness.

***The Elephant Man*** – Pomerance

John Merrick, trapped in the ugly body of a circus freak, finds love and becomes the toast of London society.

***Native Son*** – Wright

Caught up by forces of racism he can't understand or control, Bigger Thomas turns to violence.

***Practical Magic*** – Hoffman

Gilliam and Sally Owens, born into a family of witches, can't wait to leave their eccentric aunts for a life of normalcy. When they are inexorably drawn back to their Massachusetts town, the sisters learn that magic is far from the affliction they thought it to be.

***Snow Falling of Cedars*** – Guterson

In 1954 on the isolated beaches of San Pedro Island in Puget Sound, a local fisherman mysteriously drowns. When a Japanese-American is charged with his murder, it becomes clear over the course of the ensuing trial that much more is at stake than one man's guilt.

***Tears of a Tiger*** – Draper

\*Genesis Award

Andy is an African-American teenager whose life derails when, after a long evening of drinking, the car he's driving crashes, killing his best friend. His guilt and despair lead him to turn away from family, friends-and plans for the future.

***To Sir with Love*** – Braithwaite

The classic and inspiring story of schoolroom savages and the teacher who tames them.

***Non-Fiction******Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage, and Triumph*** - Roy

Roy recounts how his life has changed since a freak accident in 1995 in his first Boston University hockey game that left him paralyzed from the neck down.

***Hole in My Life*** - Gantos

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

***Letters to a Bullied Girl*** – Gardner, Buder, and Buder

Olivia and the Buder sisters share an inspiring selection of messages that arrived from across America—the personal, often painful remembrances of former targets, remorseful bullies, and sympathetic bystanders.

***Biography******Reading Lolita in Tehran*** – Nafisi

We all have dreams—things we fantasize about doing and generally never get around to. This is the story of Azar Nafisi's dream and of the nightmare that made it come true.

***The Color of Water*** – McBride

\*NYT Bestseller

As an adult, James McBride finally persuades his mother to tell her story – a story of a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a church, and raised twelve children. A remarkable tribute to his mother and an unforgettable exploration of what family really means.

***This Boy's Life*** - Wolff

In this memoir of boyhood in the 1950s, we meet the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning. Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother are constantly on the move. Between themselves they develop an almost telepathic trust that sees them through their wanderings from Florida to a small town in Washington State.

***Mystery******The Hound of the Baskervilles*** – Doyle

The most famous adventure of the peerless detective Sherlock Holmes concerns a family living under the curse of a spectral hound.

***Maltese Falcon*** – Hammett

Classic tale of suspense and intrigue featuring hard-bitten detective Sam Spade.

***Murder on the Orient Express*** – Christie

Agatha Christie's renowned mystery of the fables Orient Express.

## *Science Fiction & Fantasy*

### *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* – Carroll

The now-familiar story of a young girl who falls into a rabbit hole and ends up in a bizarre nonsensical world inhabited by an array of talking animals and characters with warped senses of humor. The unflappable Alice handles everything in a very sensible British kind of way.

### *Brave New World* – Huxley

A justifiably famous dystopian discourse on the dangers of technology and hedonistic pleasures. VR movies ('feelies') and a psychedelic drug ('soma') keep people in check, babies are genetically engineered, and human relationships lack intimacy.

### *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* – Stevenson

A bizarre potion transforms the mild-mannered Dr. Jekyll into his alter ego, the psychopathic Mr. Hyde.

### *Ender's Game* – Card

Ender Wiggins is the result of a genetic breeding program and years of harsh, unforgiving training. Hugo and Nebula SF Awards

### *Slaughter House Five* – Vonnegut

Autobiographical hero Billy Pilgrim is deeply affected by his WWII experiences as a POW during the fire-bombing of Dresden. Consequently, he ends up time-travelling between Dresden, a typically meaningless upper-middle class existence, and the planet Tralfamadore where he is a zoo display.

## *Sports Literature*

### *Brian's Song* – Blinn

Two football players conquer the differences of race, personality and place of birth to support each other in this screenplay based on the story of Brian Piccolo's courageous battle with cancer.