

8TH GRADE HONORS ENGLISH SUMMER READING

Ms. Malczewski 2009 - 2010

ELA 8H

*Choose two of the following books to read:

1. Swallowing Stones by Joyce McDonald

Who fired the gun that killed Charlie Ward? Was it an accident? Or was it murder? The entire town of Briarwood, New Jersey, is obsessed with finding the answers, and Michael MacKenzie thinks he knows. It happened on July 4, his seventeenth birthday. He simply fired one random shot with the Winchester rifle that his grandfather had given him for his birthday, and now he is haunted by the fact that he may indeed be the person that killed Charlie Ward. Taking advice from Joe, his best friend, Michael buries the rifle, but he cannot shake the guilt he feels. Then he begins having nightmares, and becomes obsessed with Jenna Ward, the dead man's daughter. As Jenna begins dealing with her grief, Michael is faced with a tough decision. Does he tell? Or does he continue living lies?

2. Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer

Ever since the boss promoted her from bus girl two and a half years ago when she was 14, Hope has been a waitress--and a darn good one, too. She takes pride in making people happy with good food, as does her aunt Addie, a diner cook extraordinaire. The two of them have been a pair ever since Hope's waitress mother abandoned her as a baby, and now they have come to rural Wisconsin to run the Welcome Stairways café for G.T. Stoop, who is dying of leukemia. But he's not dead yet, as the kindly and greathearted restaurant owner demonstrates when he decides to run for mayor against the wicked and corrupt Eli Millstone.

3. Big Mouth and Ugly Girl by Joyce Carol Oates

While horsing around in the high school cafeteria, Matt Donaghy makes some remarks that land him in a world of trouble. Yanked out of fifth-period study hall by plainclothes policemen, he learns that he's suspected of plotting to bomb the school. In this day and age that's no joking matter. His friends are advised by their parents not to get involved, lest they fall under suspicion themselves. Only the resolutely individualistic, somewhat frightening Ursula Riggs, a girl he barely knows, is willing to speak up on Matt's behalf. With a combination of clear-sightedness and bravado she gets the principal to rethink Matt's suspension--and that's just the beginning of Oates's novel.

4. Sang Spell by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Grieving over the sudden death of his mother, Josh Vardy is reluctantly hitchhiking to Dallas (to begin a new life with his aunt), when he is mugged and left beside a remote mountain road. A woman driving a horse and cart takes him to a strange, primitive village, where a long-lost people of mixed ethnicity, called Melungeons live. They accept Josh into their community, but will only answer his questions with evasiveness. Mavis, a broad-shouldered young woman his own age, befriends Josh when he is put to work with the others gathering ginseng, a valuable root they refer to as "sang" and trade once a year to Chinese merchants. Over and over again Josh tries to escape--by road and by river--but finds that somehow all routes lead back to this village that time has forgotten. Will Josh ever find his way out?

5. Twisted Summer by Willo Davis Roberts

Fourteen-year-old Cici Linden's anticipated summer among family and old friends on Crystal Lake in Michigan takes an abrupt turn when she realizes that the brother of the boy she likes has been convicted of murdering a flirtatious girl from the summer community. Convinced of Brody's innocence, Cici searches for the real killer in the midst of the illness and death of her beloved grandmother and her growing conviction that her step-grandfather is somehow involved in the crime. Before discovering the murderer's identity, Cici survives being shot at and uncovers double blackmail.

Directions: Select **two (2)** projects to complete, one different project for each book you read. These projects are to be completed, along with the Novel Organizers provided in this packet.

*Projects are due **Friday, September 11, 2009.**

If you have any questions about the project, you may call the main office to leave a message at 686-2442, or email Ms. Malczewski (mmalczewski@depew.wnyric.org).

Option 1

COLLAGE: A collage is a group of pictures and sayings arranged on poster board which represent (symbolize) people, places and ideas. The pictures, words and phrases may be cut from magazines, hand drawn or computer generated.

Your collage must include the following:

- ✓ The title and author of the novel
- ✓ Pictures representing the characters of the novel
- ✓ Pictures/words representing the setting
- ✓ Pictures representing the plot of the story
- ✓ Words and phrases describing three (3) traits of each character being represented
- ✓ Words and phrases suggesting the theme of the novel
- ✓ Your pictures and words should cover the entire poster board

Option 2

INTERVIEW OF THE MAIN CHARACTER: Answer the following interview questions in the voice of the main character. Your answers should be written/typed in complete sentences, with detail. All answers should be on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What three words best describe you and why?
2. Describe your family. Who do you get along best with?
3. Tell us where you grew up and what your childhood was like.
4. What is the biggest problem you have ever faced?
5. How did you overcome the problem?
6. What is the greatest lesson you have ever learned?
7. Who is your best friend and why?
8. Talk about a major event in your life and how it has affected you.
9. If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be and why?
10. Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Option 3

SKETCHES: Choose three (3) important scenes from the book. Draw a sketch of each scene, using detail and color. Write a one-paragraph summary **for each** sketch that explains what is taking place.

Your sketches and paragraphs should include details about:

- Characters (main and minor)
- Setting (time and place)
- The major conflict (problem faced by the main character)
- Major events