

## 2010-2011 PRE-REQUISITE READING

English II Honors

### **DUE FIRST DAY OF ENGLISH CLASS**

**PART ONE: Buy a book!      >>>>      Read it!      >>>>      Bring it with you to the first day of class!**

You need to purchase a novel (hardback or paper) that has been first published within the past five years. Check the Best Seller lists (fiction) at the libraries, bookstores, Walmart, etc. for the most recent novels. You may check the publication date on the backside of the title page. Make sure that the book is not a reprint of a novel that was published much earlier. If you have doubts, then read the information on the back cover, introductory remarks, author information, etc. that you can find with a quick browse through the book. You will not receive credit for the assignment if you fail to meet this requirement, no matter if you thought you were reading a novel first published within the past five years and instead picked up one published earlier. It's your responsibility to find out and make sure.

You should NOT read one of those classics that you might have to STUDY for school. You SHOULD pick up a book that you might (yes, actually might) ENJOY READING. The nationality of the author does not matter.

Of course, since this is school, there are strings attached with this assignment.

1. You must select a book that is at least 250 pages.
2. You must find at least one review in a newspaper, magazine, or online (do a Google search using the book's title along with the word *review*). Libraries (Canton, Waynesville, Maggie Valley) will usually let you use their computers. Cut out or print this review and bring it to the first class meeting, along with your book. The review must be from an accredited source (amazon.com editorial reviews, *The New York Times*, etc.)
3. Be prepared to say something intelligent about the book that goes beyond just the plot. Think about connections with real people and things that you know and be able to explain how the book connects. To say it does not connect to anything is not acceptable. On the first day of class, you will be asked to construct an argument (not a quarrel) that maintains the book (although fiction) connects with the real world in some way. THINK about the book; don't just read it.
4. Create and bring with you two discussion questions (and answers) that a teacher might ask about the book if it had been assigned in class. A discussion question is one that requires thoughtful insight as an answer. Discussion questions are just that – discussion.

*Obviously, some of you may read the same title. That's OK, but each of you must have a copy of whatever title you read.*

### **PART TWO**

In addition to reading a novel published within the past five years, you will also read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. You may use local libraries to borrow this title, or you can find the novel in bookstores in the area. Ordering from sites such as amazon.com, booksense.com, and other online bookstores is a possibility. On the first day of class, be prepared to discuss, write, and/or test on the book.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Some of the books may contain language and situations intended for mature readers. You should have parent or guardian approval in selecting the book you read.