

2010 SUMMER READING GRADE 11 Stoneham High School, Stoneham, MA

Welcome to eleventh grade! Students will be evaluated on summer reading during the first few days. Students are encouraged to take notes to aid in reviewing their reading and for extra credit before taking scantron tests. See back for guidelines. *Books may be purchased at local bookstores, on-line, or borrowed from the Stoneham Public Library.*

HONORS – You are required to read the following **three** books. One will require an expository essay. *See back for note suggestions.*

The Crucible by Arthur Miller - This play, based on the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, will provide background for literary works studied during the school year Consider whether or not you would lie (and damn yourself and your name) in order to save your own life. (Can be downloaded to Pcs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library)

Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway – This novel has been called “the greatest book to have been written about World War I.” It is a great love story in its intensity and tragedy. This story could not have taken place without the background of war, however, and therein lies its tragedy and beauty.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston - Janie Crawford, living in the black town of Eaton, Florida during the 1930s, is independent and articulate. Married three times and accused and tried for the murder of one of her husbands, she continues to search for her real identity.

INTENSIVE – Read ***The Crucible*** and **one other** book listed. *See back for note suggestions.*

The Crucible (required) by Arthur Miller -This play, based on the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, will provide background for understanding Puritan New England. Consider whether or not you would lie (and damn yourself and your name) in order to save your own life. (Can be downloaded to Pcs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library)

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail (choice) by Bill Bryson – For reasons even he didn’t understand, Bill Bryson decided in 1996 to walk the 2,100 mile Appalachian trail. Winding from Georgia to Maine, this ‘hiker’s highway’ sweeps through the heart of some of America’s most beautiful and treacherous terrain.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America (choice) by Barbara Ehrenreich. Journalist Ehrenreich learns what it’s like to earn minimum wage as one of America’s working poor, cleaning hotel rooms, waitressing, providing home health care, and working at Wal-Mart.

COMPREHENSIVE – Read **one** of the following two books. *See back for note requirements. Earn up to +5 on the summer reading exam with your handwritten notes.*

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer investigates the story of Chris McCandless, a twenty-four-year-old who walked into the Alaskan wilderness on an idealistic journey and was found dead of starvation four months later. Krakauer attempts to discover what led the young man to that point.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich. Journalist Ehrenreich learns what it’s like to earn minimum wage as one of America’s working poor, cleaning hotel rooms, waitressing, providing home health care, and working at Wal-Mart.

TAKING NOTES: SUGGESTIONS

While you read, we suggest you take notes on the following information

Character: Describe all major (and some minor) characters. For example, you may want to include the characters' personalities, appearances, how others treat them and how they treat others.

Conflicts: Explain the obstacles/problems facing the main character and how they were resolved.

Plot: Briefly summarize the plot in your own words. (10-15 sentences)

Setting: Include a vivid description of the main setting; remember to use descriptive adjectives.

Theme: What lesson/s does the author want the reader to come to understand?

Comprehensive: For up to +5 points on the summer reading exam, take *handwritten notes* on index cards for the topics above – a separate index card for each topic. You must turn in index cards the day of the exam to earn the points. Cards may not be used during the exam. Cards must be detailed and thorough. No late cards will be accepted. You may write bulleted notes or sentences.