

Welcome to twelfth 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 below for guidelines. *Books may be purchased at local bookstores, on-line, or borrowed from the Stoneham Public Library.*

INTENSIVE & COMPREHENSIVE:

Intensive are required to read **two** of the following, **comprehensive** are required to read **one**.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini spans almost fifty years traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy, Afghan youth and a servant's son. It begins in the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy and ends with atrocities of the present day.

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch is the inspirational true story of one man's journey through life and his aspiration to really achieve his childhood dreams. After his diagnosis with pancreatic cancer, he decided to give a last lecture to his students and colleagues sharing life lessons learned. (Can be downloaded to PCs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library)

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen. At the heart of the book is a powerful but simple message: we each as individuals have the power to change the world, one cup of tea at a time. Yet the book also shows us the obstacles in the way of this philosophy: war, prejudice, religious extremism, and cultural barriers. As of 2008, Mortenson had established more than 75 schools in rural and often volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, which provide education to more than 28,000 children, including 18,000 girls, where few education opportunities existed before. (Can be downloaded to PCs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library)

Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys. Born into an oppressive, colonialist society, Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway meets a young Englishman. After their marriage disturbing rumors circulate, poisoning her husband against her. Caught between his demands and her own precarious sense of belonging, Antoinette is driven towards madness.

TAKING NOTES: SUGGESTIONS

While you read, take notes on the following information. Your details can be bulleted, note format or complete sentences. You may write or type (and paste) on any size index cards or paper. Notes cannot be used on the exams, but complete notes can earn +5 points on the summer reading exam. **BRING THESE IN THE DAY OF THE EXAM.** Plan an index card or paragraph to fully discuss each topic below.

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?