

2010 SUMMER READING GRADE 9 Stoneham High School, Stoneham, MA

Welcome to ninth 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. If you are unsure which level you are in, check your high school schedule. *Books may be purchased at local bookstores, on-line, or borrowed from the Stoneham Public Library.*

HONORS – Read the following **two** books. You will be writing an essay in-class on one. *See back for note suggestions.*

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck. Set during the Great Depression, this Pulitzer Prize novel traces the migration of an Oklahoma Dust Bowl family (the Joads) to California and their subsequent hardships as migrant farm workers. Read the following chapters: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. In this futuristic novel ruled by a tyrannical government, firefighters, as we understand them, no longer exist. In this world firefighters don't douse fires – they ignite them. And they do this specifically in homes that house the most evil of evils: books. (Can be downloaded to PCs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library)

INTENSIVE – Read **one** of the following two books. *See back for note suggestions.*

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COMPREHENSIVE – Read **one** of the following two books. *See back for note suggestions.*

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The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. In a future North America, where the rules of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against each other, 16-year old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

See back for note suggestions

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.

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?