

2011 SUMMER READING GRADE 9 Stoneham High School, Stoneham, MA
Driving Question: Why do our choices matter?

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 such as The Book Oasis on Main Street, on-line, or borrowed from the Stoneham Public Library.*

HONORS – Read the following **three** books. You will be writing an essay in-class on one. *See back for note suggestions. (No extra credit for notes)*

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 that follow the family on this trip: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30. (Can be downloaded to Pcs, iPods, and MP3 players from SPL)

Sold by Patricia McCormack. As this heartbreaking story, written in free verse, opens, 13-year-old Lakshmi lives an ordinary life in Nepal, going to school and thinking of the boy she is to marry. Then her gambling-addicted stepfather sells her into prostitution in India. She is told that if she works off her family's debt, she can leave, but she soon discovers that this is virtually impossible. When an American comes to the brothel to rescue girls, Lakshmi finally dares to hope.

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. Morrie Schwartz, a history professor at Brandeis University, has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and is dying. A former student, Mitch Albom, who had become a fairly well-known sports writer, heard about his teacher from an interview with Ted Koppel on Nightline and visited him. This visit soon turned into regular meetings - on Tuesdays. It's a great book to remind you what really matters in life. (Can be downloaded to Pcs, iPods, and MP3 players from SPL)

INTENSIVE – Read **two** books listed below. *See back for note suggestions and extra credit.*
COMPREHENSIVE & TRANSITIONAL – Read **one** of the books below. *See back for note suggestions. Notes will give you extra credit on the quiz.*

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson. Since the beginning of the school year, high school freshman Melinda has found that it's been getting harder and harder for her to speak out loud: "My throat is always sore, my lips raw.... Every time I try to talk to my parents or a teacher, I sputter or freeze." What could have caused Melinda to suddenly fall mute? Could it be due to the fact that no one at school is speaking to her because she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-summer party? While Melinda is bothered by these things, deep down she knows the real reason why she's been struck mute...

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The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. In a future North America, the government, Panem, maintains control of the 12 districts with the rules of an annual televised survival competition. When young people from each of the 12 districts are pitted against each other, 16-year old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. (Can be downloaded to Pcs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library)

TAKING NOTES: SUGGESTIONS

Comprehensive & Intensive: For up to **+5 points** on the summer reading exam, take *handwritten or typed notes* on index cards for the topics listed below while you read. Make a separate index card for each topic (can be up to 5x8). **BRING THESE IN THE DAY OF THE EXAM.** The notes must be in your own words. You may use bullet or sentences. 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

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?