

**“Reading maketh a full man, conference  
a ready man, and writing an exact man.”**

**Sir Francis Bacon**

**English author, Courtier, and Philosopher - 1626**

# **Salem High School Summer Reading Program**



**2010**

## Salem High School

### Summer Reading Program 2010

All students entering Salem High School will be required to complete summer reading.

**This year, we are offering student choice; we will supply one title and provide a list of other possible titles that the student will have either to buy or sign out from the local library. The Salem Public Library has been provided with a list of these books.**

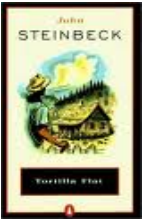
All levels of College Preparatory students (CP) will be required to read one book from the list of choices. **All levels of Honors English classes will be required to read two books, one required and one choice. We will supply the required title.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Read your book/s carefully by interacting with the text.
2. **CP Students** – Complete your reading log for which you will receive extra credit on your summer reading essay. You may use this log as you write your essay.
3. **Honors Students** – Complete one reading log for one of your books. You will write an essay for the other book, and you may use this log as you write your essay. Complete a different reading log for the other book for extra credit. You decide for which book you wish to write the essay.
4. In addition, whole group/small group discussions will occur early in the school year; you are expected to participate in these discussions.

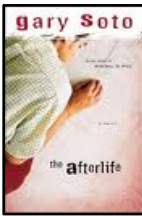
## Incoming Freshmen

### The Pearl by John Steinbeck (Required for Honors I)



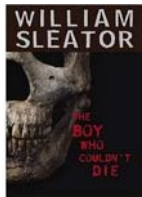
The diver Kino believes that his discovery of a beautiful pearl means the promise of a better life for his impoverished family. His fall from innocence is one of Steinbeck's most moving stories about the American dream. (Fiction)

### The Afterlife by Gary Soto (Available from the SHS English Department)



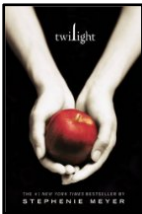
You'd think a knife in the ribs would be the end of things, but for Chuy, that's when his life finally gets interesting. At last, he sees that people love him, faces the consequences of his actions, and finds himself compassion and bravery ... and even stumbles on what may be true love. (Fiction)

### The Boy Who Couldn't Die by William Sleator



When his best friend dies in a plane crash, sixteen-year-old Ken has a ritual performed that is supposed to make him invulnerable. Ken was right to be suspicious of the woman he paid to perform the ritual: he soon learns that she had locked away his soul. (Fiction)

### Twilight by Stephanie Meyer



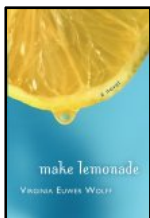
Bella moves in with her dad and starts a new school. She falls for the mysterious Edward Cullen and finds out his family's secret—they are vampires. How will her love for Edward change her life? Action, love, & a solid dose of sappiness are components of this novel. (Fiction)

### The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan



This novel charts the adventures of modern day twelve-year-old Percy Jackson as he discovers he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and the Greek god Poseidon. Percy and his friends go on a quest to prevent an apocalyptic war between the Greek gods, Poseidon and Hades. (Fiction)

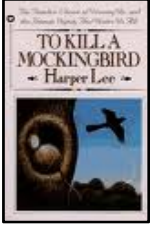
### Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff



Jolly, a seventeen-year-old mother of two, posts a notice on her school bulletin board: Babysitter Needed Bad. Only one person responds: Verna, a fourteen-year-old with no experience. The plot unfolds as the two create a unique family. As Verna plans her future, Jolly learns to make lemonade from the lemons in her life. (Fiction)

## Incoming Sophomores

### To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (Required for Honors II)



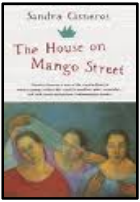
The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it contains compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving events. This novel takes readers to the roots of human behavior to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Today, this novel is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature. (Fiction)

### Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (Available from the SHS English Department)



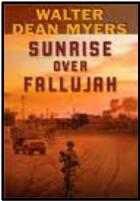
Melinda Sordino busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so her old friends won't talk to her, and people she doesn't know hate her from a distance. The safest place to be is alone, inside her own head. But even that's not safe. A traumatic event has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. Contains mature material. (Fiction)

### House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros



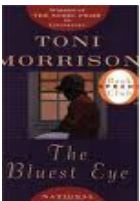
The remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero is told in a series of vignettes-sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous- it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. (Fiction)

### Sunrise over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers



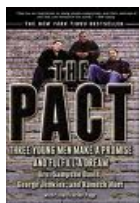
This is the story of Birdy, an eighteen-year-old fresh Army recruit from Harlem. Birdy is the nephew of Richie Perry, the Vietnam vet that Walter Dean Myers introduced in *Fallen Angels*. The story follows Birdy's journey into Iraq to stabilize and interact with the Iraqi people. (Fiction)

### The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison



Pecola Breedlove believes she is neglected and abused by her parents and ostracized by her peers because she is not pretty. She longs to have blue eyes so that she will be loved and accepted. As she attempts to cope with her reality, Pecola helplessly spirals into insanity. (Fiction)

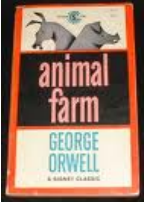
### The Pact by Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt



Chosen by *Essence* to be among the forty most influential African Americans, these three doctors grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attaining that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day-they are all doctors. (Biography/Memoir)

## Incoming Juniors

### Animal Farm by George Orwell (Required for Honors III)



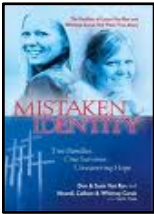
A farm is taken over by its over-worked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. The novel records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to totalitarianism just as terrible. Today, the cutting clarity and savage comedy of Orwell's masterpiece have a meaning and message still ferociously fresh. (Fiction)

### The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold (Available from the SHS English Department)



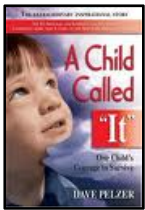
"My name was Salmon, like the fish, first name Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973." So begins the story of Susie Salmon, who is adjusting to her new home in heaven, a place that is not at all what she expected, even as she is watching life on earth continue without her. Out of unspeakable tragedy and loss, this novel succeeds, miraculously, in building a tale filled with hope, humor, suspense, even joy. (Fiction)

### Mistaken Identity by Don Van Ryn



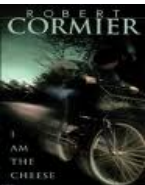
Straight from the headlines comes the story of two students, one buried under the wrong name, one in a coma being cared for by the wrong family and the heart wrenching discovery five weeks late that their identities had been mistakenly reversed. (Non-fiction)

### A Child Called It by David Pelzer



The unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother—a mother who played torturous, unpredictable games—games that left him nearly dead. He had to learn how to play his mother's games in order to survive because she no longer considered him a son, but a slave; and no longer a boy, but an "it." (Biography/Memoir)

### I am the Cheese by Robert Cormier



In this complicated, suspenseful, and moving novel, teenaged Adam experiences two life-altering journeys: a solitary bike trip to seek his father and a mysterious series of interviews, through which he pieces together the frightening truth about his past, his identity, and his destiny. (Fiction)

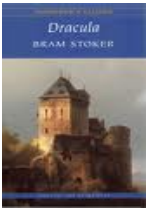
### Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt



This extraordinary memoir accounts for Frank's survival. Wearing rags for diapers, begging a pig's head for Christmas dinner, and gathering coal from the roadside to light a fire, Frank endures poverty, starvation, and the casual cruelty of relatives and neighbors – yet lives to tell his tale with eloquence, exuberance and remarkable forgiveness. Imbued on every page is Frank McCourt's astounding humor and compassion. (Biography/Memoir)

## Incoming Seniors

### Dracula by Bram Stoker (Required for Honors IV)



Vampires, werewolves, creatures dead and yet still living abound amidst people determined to eliminate them. Dracula is the story of an evil, ages old and forever new. It is the story of those who feed a diabolic craving into the veins of their victims. It is a novel of peculiar power, of hypnotic fascination. (Fiction)

### Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah (Available from the SHS English Department)



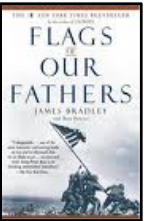
After her mother dies giving birth to her, Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to their stepmother's disdain, while her half brother and half sister are thoroughly spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not what she really yearns for—the love and understanding of her family. (Fiction)

### Pride and Prejudice and Zombies by Jane Austen and Seth Grahame Smith



This is an expanded edition of the beloved Jane Austen novel featuring all new scenes of bone crunching zombie mayhem. As the story opens, a mysterious plague has fallen upon the quiet English village of Meryton—and the dead are returning to live! (Fiction)

### Flags of our Fathers by James Bradley



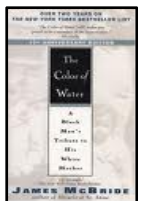
Though a hail of machine-gun and mortar fire that left the beaches strewn with comrades, the American Marines battled to the island's highest peak. And there they raised a flag. Here is the true story behind perhaps the most famous moment in American military history—the raising of the U.S. flag on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima, February 23, 1945—and the immortal photograph that lifted the heart and spirit of a nation at war. (Biography)

### Left for Dead by Peter Nelson



This book recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later. (Non-Fiction)

### The Color of Water by James McBride



As a boy in Brooklyn's Red Hook projects, James McBride knew his mother was different. But when he asked about it, she'd simply say, "I'm light-skinned." Later he wondered if he was different, too, and asked his mother if he was black or white. "You're a human being," she snapped. "Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody!" And when James asked what color God was, she said, "God is the color of water." (Biography/Memoir)

## **Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden**



Go behind the rice-paper screen of the geisha house to a vanished floating world of beauty and cruelty, from a poor fishing village in 1929 to the decade of the 1940s. Contains mature material. (Fiction)