

English I - Summer Reading List 2008

In order to receive bonus points in your English I class, choose one of the following novels to read during your summer vacation and complete BOTH parts A and B below. Work is due on the first day of school. (All summaries from www.bn.com)

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J. K. Rowling

"Harry Potter 7 has been announced! J. K. Rowling's seventh and final book of her blockbuster Harry Potter series is scheduled for release on July 21, 2007."

Life As We Knew It by Susan B. Pfeffer

"When Miranda first hears the warnings that a meteor is headed on a collision path with the moon, they just sound like an excuse for extra homework assignments. But her disbelief turns to fear in a split second as the entire world witnesses a lunar impact that knocks the moon closer in orbit, catastrophically altering the earth's climate."

Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

"Tyler Miller seemed like a normal guy; that is, until he was busted. His arrest for in-school graffiti changed everything. Sentenced to a summer of hard outdoor work, he returns buff and muscular for his senior year. His new physique catches the eye of schoolmates, most notably class vixen Bethany Milbury. Tyler's transformation has a downside too. Bethany's father happens to be his dad's boss."

Secrets of Peaches by Jodi Lynn Anderson

"Last summer, three very different girls—wild Murphy, perfect Leeda, and shy Birdie—etched their initials on a Magnolia tree at Darlington Peach Orchard to symbolize that they're friendship will last forever. But can it survive the less-than-peachy year ahead?"

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

"After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce."

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

"An unforgettable memoir of growing up black in the 1930s and 1940s in a tiny Arkansas town where Angelou's grandmother's store was the heart of the community."

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

"Once again, the Earth is under attack. Alien "buggers" are poised for a final assault. The survival of the human species depends on a military genius who can defeat the buggers. But who? Ender Wiggin. Brilliant. Ruthless. Cunning. A tactical and strategic master."

A. Complete one of the following assignments about the novel you read. (20 points)

1. You are a journalist. Write about two significant events in the novel as articles for the local newspaper. Each article should be at least 3 paragraphs.
2. You are a nonhuman object from the book. Tell the main events from your perspective. Your assignment should be at least five paragraphs.
3. You are a talk show host. Interview two characters from the book about their lives. Example questions:
What role do you play in the story? Do you change over time? You must have 5 questions and answers. (NO "yes" or "no" questions.)
4. You are an author. You have been asked to adapt the book to our current time period. Discuss at least two changes you would make. Your adaptation should be at least five paragraphs.
5. You are a character in the book. Keep a journal of your thoughts throughout the sequence of events. Include at least ten entries. Each entry should be at least four sentences.
6. You are a poet. Write a poem about a main character and a poem about a main event in the novel. Each poem should be 15-20 lines long.
7. You are a book critic for a magazine. Give your critique of the book explaining why you do or don't think the book was worth reading. Would you recommend it? Why or why not? Your article should be at least five paragraphs.

B. Vocabulary Log: (10 points)

As you read, you will come across words that you do not know. Make a list of ten unfamiliar words and define each using a dictionary. You must include part of speech.

Both Parts A and B must be completed in order to earn the bonus points.