

**Bryan Station High School**

**Summer Reading 2010**

**Summer Reading Assignment:** Each student at Bryan Station High School must choose **one** novel from the list below. You may choose a book from your grade level or **above**. Juniors and Seniors may choose from their list or the all grade levels list. Any of these books can be checked-out at a local library or purchased at local bookstores. Some of these books are available for check-out from your English teacher.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- August 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> (A or B Day): Students will be **required** to complete an assignment in their English class based on the selected novel.
- July 7<sup>th</sup> (9:00 am-12:00 pm): Summer Reading Celebration (food, games, prizes and book group discussions). This is an **optional** activity for students interested in discussing their selected novel. Students **do not** have to complete the novel before the event.

**Advanced and AP Students**

Students enrolled in an Advanced or AP level English course will participate in a book group discussion assignment on August 23rd. Suitable titles for AP students are in bold print.

<b>Freshman/Sophomore</b>	<b>Junior/Senior/AP (bold)</b>	<b>All Grade Levels</b>
<u>The Hunger Games</u> by Suzanne Collins	<b>**<u>The Kite Runner</u> by Khaled Hosseini</b>	<u>Life of Pi</u> by Yann Martel
<u>Breathing Underwater</u> by Alex Flinn	<b>**<u>A Thousand Splendid Suns</u> by Khaled Hosseini</b>	<u>Obedience</u> by Will Lavender
<u>You Don't Even Know Me</u> by Sharon G. Flake	<b>**<u>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</u> by Stephen Chbosky</b>	<u>Stitches: A Memoir</u> by David Small
<u>Jumped</u> by Rita Williams Garcia	<b><u>Oryx and Crake</u> by Margaret Atwood</b>	<u>The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency</u> by Alexander McCall Smith
	<b><u>The Poisonwood Bible</u> by Barbara Kingsolver</b>	<u>The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game</u> by Michael Lewis
		<u>The Host</u> by Stephanie Myers
		<u>The Last Song</u> by Nicholas Sparks
		<b>**<u>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</u> by Marc Haddon</b>
		<u>Pride and Prejudice and Zombies</u> by Jane Austen, Seth Grahame-Smith

\*\*Titles marked with asterisks may contain mature language and situations. Please examine these books before giving your child permission to read them.

## SUITABLE FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS

1. Life of Pi by Yann Martel: The son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in India where he tries on various faiths for size while being trapped on a 26 foot lifeboat for 227 days. (Fiction)
2. Obedience by Will Lavender: When the students in Winchester University's Logic and Reasoning 204 arrive for their first day of class, they are greeted not with a syllabus or texts, but with a startling assignment from Professor Williams: Find a hypothetical missing girl named Polly. If after being given a series of clues and details the class has not found her before the end of the term in six weeks, she will be murdered. At first the students are as intrigued by the premise of their puzzle as they are wary of the strange and slightly creepy Professor Williams. But as they delve deeper into the mystery, they begin to wonder: Is the Polly story simply a logic exercise, designed to teach them rational thinking skills, or could it be something more sinister and dangerous? (Mystery)
3. Stitches: A Memoir by David Small: In this profound and moving memoir, Small, an award-winning children's book illustrator, uses his drawings to depict the consciousness of a young boy. The story starts when the narrator is six years old and follows him into adulthood, with most of the story spent during his early adolescence. The youngest member of a silent and unhappy family, David is subjected to repeated x-rays to monitor sinus problems. When he develops cancer as a result of this procedure, he is operated on without being told what is wrong with him. The operation results in the loss of his voice, cutting him off even further from the world around him. Small's black and white pen and ink drawings are endlessly perceptive as they portray the layering of dream and imagination onto the real-life experiences of the young boy. Small's intuitive morphing of images, as with the terrible postsurgery scar on the main character's throat that becomes a dark staircase climbed by his mother, provide deep emotional echoes. Some understanding is gained as family secrets are unearthed, but for the most part David fends for himself in a family that is uncommunicative to a truly ghastly degree. Small tells his story with haunting subtlety and power. (Graphic Novel/Memoir)
4. The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith: This remarkably fresh and charming best-seller took the world by storm upon its publication. It has since earned two Booker Judges' Special Recommendations and was voted one of the "International Books of the Year and the Millennium" by the Times Literary Supplement. Mma "Precious" Ramotswa sets up a detective agency in Botswana on the edge of the Kalahari Desert, making her the only female detective in the country. At first, cases are hard to come by. But eventually, troubled people come to Precious with a variety of concerns. Potentially philandering husbands, seemingly schizophrenic doctors, and a missing boy who may have been killed by witch doctors all compel Precious to roam about in her tiny van, searching for clues. (Mystery)
5. The Blind Side: The Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis: From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Moneyball* and *Liar's Poker* comes the story of a young man's rise to football stardom. The young man at the center of this extraordinary and moving story will one day be among the most highly paid athletes in the NFL. Plucked from the mean streets by a wealthy family, he took up football and school, and turned out to possess the priceless combination of size, speed, and agility needed to guard the quarterback's greatest vulnerability: his blind side.
6. The Host by Stephanie Myers: Melanie Stryder refuses to fade away. The earth has been invaded by a species that take over the minds of human hosts while leaving their bodies intact. Wanderer, the invading "soul" who has been given Melanie's body, didn't expect to find its former tenant refusing to relinquish possession of her mind. As Melanie fills Wanderer's thoughts with visions of Jared, a human who still lives in hiding, Wanderer begins to yearn for a man she's never met. Reluctant allies, Wanderer and Melanie set off to search for the man they both love. (Science-Fiction)
7. The Last Song by Nicholas Sparks: Seventeen year old Veronica "Ronnie" Miller's life was turned upside?down when her parents divorced and her father moved from New York City to Wilmington, North Carolina. Three years later, she remains angry and alienated from her parents, especially her father...until her mother decides it would be in everyone's best interest if she spent the summer in Wilmington with him. Ronnie's father, a former concert pianist and teacher, is living a quiet life in the beach town, immersed in creating a work of art that will become the centerpiece of a local church. (Fiction)
8. \*\*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time by Marc Haddon: A young autistic boy in London, England, attempts to solve he apparent murder of a neighbor's poodle. (Mystery)
9. Pride and Prejudice and Zombies by Jane Austen, Seth Grahame-Smith: So begins *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, an expanded edition of the beloved Jane Austen novel featuring all-new scenes of bone-crunching zombie mayhem. As our story opens, a mysterious plague has fallen upon the quiet English village of Meryton — and the dead are returning to life! Feisty heroine Elizabeth Bennet is determined to wipe out the zombie menace, but she's soon distracted by the arrival of the haughty and arrogant Mr. Darcy. What ensues is a delightful comedy of manners with plenty of civilized sparring between the two young lovers — and even more violent sparring on the blood-soaked battlefield. Can Elizabeth vanquish the spawn of Satan? And overcome the social prejudices of the class-conscious landed gentry? Complete with romance, heartbreak, swordfights, cannibalism, and thousands of rotting corpses, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* transforms a masterpiece of world literature into something you'd actually want to listen to. (Fantasy)

SUITABLE FOR FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE ENGLISH (JUNIORS AND SENIORS CAN NOT CHOOSE FROM THIS LIST)

1. **Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins: Katniss is a 16-year-old girl living with her mother and younger sister in the poorest district of Panem, the remains of what used be the United States. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games." The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed. When Kat's sister is chosen by lottery, Kat steps up to go in her place. (Dystopian/Action Adventure)
2. **Breathing Underwater** by Alex Flinn: Intelligent, popular, handsome, and wealthy, sixteen-year-old Nick Andreas is pretty much perfect — on the outside, at least. What no one knows — not even his best friend — is the terror that Nick faces every time he is alone with his father. Then he and Caitlin fall in love, and Nick thinks his problems are over. Caitlin is the one person who he can confide in. But when things start to spiral out of control, Nick must face the fact that he's gotten more from his father than green eyes and money.
3. **You Don't Even Know Me** by Sharon G. Flake: In 9 stories and 13 poems, Sharon G. Flake gives readers insight into the minds of a diverse group adolescent African-American males. There's Tow-Kaye, getting married at age 17 to love of his life, who's pregnant. He knows it's the right thing to do, but he's scared to death. James writes in his diary about his twin brother's terrible secret, which threatens to pull James down, too. Tyler explains what it's like to be a player with the ladies. In a letter to his uncle, La'Ron confesses that he's infected with HIV. Eric takes us on a tour of North Philly on the Fourth of July, when the heat could make a guy go crazy. Still, he loves his hood. (Urban Fiction)
4. **Jumped** by Rita Williams Garcia: Acclaimed author Rita Williams-Garcia intertwines the lives of three very different teens in this fast-paced, gritty narrative about choices and the impact that even the most seemingly insignificant ones can have. Weaving in and out of the girls' perspectives, readers will find themselves not with one intimate portrayal but three. (Urban Fiction)

SUITABLE FOR JUNIOR/ SENIOR ENGLISH (BOLD TITLES ARE SUITABLE FOR AP)

1. **\*\*The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini: Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the present, *The Kite Runner* is the unforgettable and beautifully told story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Raised in the same household and sharing the same wet nurse, Amir and Hassan grow up in different worlds: Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man, while Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, is a Hazara — a shunned ethnic minority. Their intertwined lives, and their fates, reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them. When Amir and his father flee the country for a new life in California, Amir thinks that he has escaped his past. And yet he cannot leave the memory of Hassan behind him. (Fiction)
2. **\*\*The Perks of Being a Wallflower** by Stephen Chbosky: This haunting novel about the dilemma of passivity vs. passion marks the stunning debut of a provocative new voice in contemporary fiction: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. We may not know where he lives. We may not know to whom he is writing. All we know is the world he shares. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it puts him on a strange course through uncharted territory. (Fiction)
3. **\*\*A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years -- from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding -- that puts the violence, fear, hope and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives -- the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness -- are inextricable from the history playing out around them. (Fiction)
4. **Oryx and Crake** by Margaret Atwood: With the same stunning blend of prophecy and social satire she brought to her classic *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood gives us a keenly prescient novel about the future of humanity—and its present. Humanity here equals Snowman, and in Snowman's recollections Atwood re-creates a time much like our own, when a boy named Jimmy loved an elusive, damaged girl called Oryx and a sardonic genius called Crake. But now Snowman is alone, and as we learn why we also learn about a world that could become ours one day.
5. **The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver: *The Poisonwood Bible* is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa. The novel is set against one of the most dramatic political chronicles of the twentieth century: the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium, the order of its first elected prime minister, the CIA coup to install his replacement, and the insidious progress of a world economic order that robs the fledgling African nation of its autonomy. Taking its place alongside the classic works of postcolonial literature, this ambitious novel establishes Kingsolver as one of the most thoughtful and daring of modern writers.