

Required Summer Reading Grades 9 – 12

Flora Macdonald Academy
2011-2012 School Year

The following books are available in or can be ordered by Books-a-Million in Fayetteville. I'm sure they're also available in or through Barnes & Noble or Amazon, as well. Used copies are fine if they're in good condition and have room for notations!! I've included info on new copies; having the same edition I will be using is helpful in finding pages, passages, etc. Also, please note the translator on NIGHT, below. Be sure to go on and be sure the book is in stock and get yours...and get to reading. The summer will be all too short!

For rising twelfth graders:

George Orwell *1984* Signet Classic \$9.99
ISBN 978-0-451-52493-5

Students should throughout the book be noticing aspects of "Big Brother" government in the news. Some examples might be the continuing attempts to ban gun ownership; or to ban Happy Meals and Ronald McDonald b/c the food, etc., contributes to childhood obesity; New York's ban on smoking in public parks and on beaches; liberal media's attempt to 'shush' conservatives, etc. It's fine to get ideas from your parents and grands, too. Seeing similarities between the 1949 novel and 2011 realities is the whole point of reading it, and different generations may well notice different similarities!! Sometimes they slip up on us....

For rising eleventh-graders:

Melba Pattillo Beals *WARRIORS DON'T CRY*; abridged ed. Simon Pulse Bk.
\$6.99

ISBN 078-1-4169-4882-7

Students should keep a journal of your reactions to specific events, days, etc., so that you can write a genuine, thoughtful, and thorough response to the book, based on what you learned and what you realized and what you felt as you enter Little Rock's Central High School and walk its halls and live its horrors with Melba. Your English III research paper topics will be drawn from the civil rights struggles, leaders, moments, movements, literature and speeches, etc....past and on-going. Hopefully these can be co-ordinated with your US History course, so that one paper will suffice for both courses!

For rising tenth-graders:

Elie Wiesel *NIGHT* trans. Marion Wiesel Hill & Wang \$9.95
ISBN 978-0-374-50001-6

Students should keep a journal as you read, noting your reactions to specific individuals, acts, events, etc., as well as to the entire concept of the Holocaust. You should also note the relevance between the book and the current Middle East situation in which Israel/the Jewish people is/are facing nations hostile to their very existence; and to events around the world in which there is an increase in anti-Semitism. Cut out/download articles related to these ideas for use in class when school starts; you will need a collection to work with from the beginning of school.

For rising ninth-graders:

Forrest Carter *THE EDUCATION OF LITTLE TREE* Univ. of New Mexico Press
\$13.95

ISBN 978-0-8263-2809-0

Students should keep a journal as you read, noting especially cultural differences between the Cherokee Nation's values and way(s) of life and those of the whites in the story. As you note these, comment on your reactions to what you read; also keep a running commentary of the ways both of Little Tree's grandparents influence him; be prepared to discuss whose is the greater and/or more wholesome influence. Also note and comment on ways the book may speak to current attempts to coerce students--whether Indian, Muslim, Hispanic, etc.--to give up their culture, language, etc., and become 'Americanized.' Native American students are especially encouraged to make notations of similarities and differences you see between Lumbee or Tuscarora culture and traditions and those of the Cherokee.

All students should note that an activity designed to ascertain whether (or, how well) you've read the book will greet you no later than the second day of school! And yes, the grade will 'count'! While you're working on that activity, I will be checking the journals, clippings, etc. I've asked you to keep as you read.

All high school English students will need to have a 1-inch thick, 3-ring binder with 5 dividers (1. Lit Terms, 2. Literature, 3. Vocabulary, 4. Gram/Mech, 5. Composition); a supply of LOOSELEAF NOTEBOOK PAPER (I will not accept frilly- or torn-edged paper ripped from a spiral binder); pencils, and black or blue pens. This notebook will be your lifeline in this course, grades 9-12. It will be checked and graded frequently for organization, orderliness, and completeness (handouts/ notes in it, in the right place, etc.).

Have a safe, wonderful summer!!