

**BURRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST 2011
GRADE 9 HONORS—MRS. BLISSMER**

“The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of past centuries.” -- Descartes

Part One: Classic Literature

Choose one of the following novels. Then complete the assignment below.

***A Tale of Two Cities*—Charles Dickens**

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . .” With these famous words, Charles Dickens plunges the reader into one of history’s most explosive eras—the French Revolution. From the storming of the Bastille to the relentless drop of the guillotine, Dickens vividly captures the terror and upheaval of that tumultuous period. At the center is the novel’s hero, Sydney Carton, a lazy, alcoholic attorney who, inspired by a woman, makes the supreme sacrifice on the bloodstained streets of Paris. One of Dickens’s most exciting novels, *A Tale of Two Cities* is a stirring classic of love, revenge, and resurrection.

OR

***Jane Eyre*—Charlotte Brontë**

Immediately recognized as a masterpiece when it was first published in 1847, Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* is an extraordinary coming-of-age story featuring one of the most independent and strong-willed female protagonists in all of literature. Poor and plain, Jane Eyre begins life as a lonely orphan in the household of her hateful aunt. Despite the oppression she endures at home, and the later torture of boarding school, Jane manages to emerge with her spirit and integrity unbroken. She becomes a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she finds herself falling in love with her employer—the dark, impassioned Mr. Rochester. But an explosive secret tears apart their relationship, forcing Jane to face poverty and isolation once again. One of the world’s most beloved novels, *Jane Eyre* is a startlingly modern blend of passion, romance, mystery, and suspense.

Assignment: Critical Essay

Write a **3-4 page** essay in which you analyze the main character in the novel. Discuss how certain events change, or alter, the main character as he or she progresses through the novel from beginning to end. You may consider different events, obstacles, conversations, or other characters that lead the main character to change and grow. Use quotations from the novel to support **each** of your points. You need to have a clear **thesis statement** in your introduction that clearly states the idea you will be proving within your paper. As this is a formal paper, third person point-of-view should be used (not the informal first person—no use of “I”), and you should end with a concluding paragraph that restates your thesis and reviews your main points. Papers should be typed, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, using Times New Roman 12 point font, with correct MLA format including heading and page numbers. This paper should be submitted via e-mail by the deadline. **(Be sure to type your name in the email text and subject line.)**

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.” – Charles W. Eliot

Part Two: Twentieth Century Classics

Choose one of the following novels. Then complete the assignment below.

***A Separate Peace*—John Knowles**

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world. A bestseller for more than thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is John Knowles's crowning achievement and an undisputed American classic.

OR

***The Catcher in the Rye*—J. D. Salinger**

Holden, knowing he is to be expelled from school, decides to leave early. He spends three days in New York City and tells the story of what he did and suffered there. Ever since it was first published in 1951, this novel has been the coming-of-age story against which all others are judged. Salinger's classic coming-of-age story portrays one young man's funny and poignant experiences with life, love, and sex. Read and cherished by generations, the story of Holden Caulfield is truly one of America's literary treasures.

Assignment: Journal/Diary

Create a journal or diary of the main character. Include what events happened to the character (plot) and how the character reacted to those events. Also include the character’s inner thoughts (character) about his life and adapting to difficult situations that he faced (theme). Be creative in your presentation of the character’s journal or diary—add pictures, song lyrics, famous quotes, etc. that you feel show the main ideas or feelings of the character, but do not have more of these in the journal than the actual writing of the journal. This journal/diary should have a **minimum of twenty entries** and be submitted via e-mail by the deadline. **(Be sure to type your name in the email text and subject line.)**

“Tis the good reader that makes the good book... in every book he finds passages which seem confidences or asides hidden from all else and unmistakably meant for his ear.” -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Part Three: Young Adult Literature

Choose one of the following novels. Then complete the double-entry journal assignment that follows.

Feed — M. T. Anderson

For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. Following in the footsteps of George Orwell, Anthony Burgess, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr., M. T. Anderson has created a not-so-brave new world — and a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now. (National Book Award Finalist) **Language**

OR

The Hunger Games — 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. (Rhode Island Teen Book Award 2010 Winner, American Library Association 2010 Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults)

Assignment: Double Entry Journal

For this assignment, you will need to maintain a double-entry journal while you are reading the novel. You will, as you read, choose excerpts from the novel that are significant and critical to the meaning of the work, the writer's style, and/or the literary elements (e.g. character, plot, theme, symbols, etc.). You must include a **minimum of ten entries** in this journal, and it should cover the entirety of the novel. In a double-entry journal, you fold or divide your page in half, quote the author's words on the left side of the page, and then write your interpretation and/or response to it on the right—you will paraphrase, explain, and analyze the author's language to increase your own comprehension. Each entry should be at least **6-8 well thought out sentences**, making references to the text whenever possible. Journals should be **handwritten** in two columns and **single-spaced**.

During the first full week of school, you will be asked to complete an in-class assessment of the novel that you read. Your double-entry journal will be your pre-writing and reference material. You will be allowed to use the journal during the assessment.

Due Dates and Policies for Summer Reading

Your summer reading assignments are worth **TWO TEST GRADES** that will count in your first quarter average. All assignments that are due via e-mail must be received **no later than 11:59 p.m.** on the date noted below. Ten points will be deducted for each day it is late, for up to three days. After that, the project **will not be accepted**. Your double-entry journal will be due at the beginning of class on the day noted below, and will stay in class for use in the next week's in-class assignment.

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	GRADING
Critical Essay	Friday, July 15	1/3 of summer reading
Journal/Diary	Friday, August 12	1/3 of summer reading
Double-Entry Journal/Assessment	Friday, September 2	1/3 of summer reading

SEND ASSIGNMENTS AND ANY QUESTIONS TO: blissmera@bsd-ri.net

“Reading, real reading, is a strenuous and pleasurable contact sport.”

--Maureen Howard