

May 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of English 9 & English 10 students,

Books serve as mirrors and windows into society and experiences. When students find the right book, it opens their eyes to a world beyond what they know; a world full of imagination and new experiences; critical thinking and development of worldviews and personal ideas. Students entering English 9 and English 10 will be responsible for independent reading throughout their coursework, including summer reading. This year's summer reading choices are from the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award nominated titles for YA.

As with summer reading in grades 7 & 8, students will choose one nominated title to read over the summer. Each student is also responsible for completing a reading journal while reading over the summer and submitting it to the appropriate Schoology class or dropping a hard copy off in the main office by **August 15, 2017**. Upon returning to school on August 23, 2017, students will begin the school year with writing instruction and the completion of a writing prompt, from the list provided with this letter.

Schoology Course Codes:   English 9 Summer Reading - **DSMZQ-XNSOZ**  
                                          English 10 Summer Reading - **6JGXR-FGNFB**

This year's Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award nominated titles for young adult are:

*Trashed* by Derf Backderf (Graphic Novel)  
*Audacity* by Melanie Crowder (Historical Fiction)  
*The Great American Whatever* by Tim Federle (Realistic Fiction)  
*Phantom Limbs* by Paula Garner (Realistic Fiction)  
*Exit, Pursued by a Bear* by E.K. Johnston (Realistic Fiction)  
*Still Life with Tornado* by A.S. King (Magical Realism)  
*March: Book Three* by John Lewis & Andrew Aydin; Ill. Nate Powell (Graphic Novel)  
*The Thousandth Floor* by Katharine McGee (Science Fiction)  
*Burn Baby Burn* by Meg Medina (Historical Fiction)  
*Heartless* by Marissa Meyer (Fantasy; Classic Retelling)  
*Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah (Memoir)  
*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys (Historical Fiction)  
*Scythe* by Neal Shusterman (Science Fiction)  
*The Darkest Corners* by Kara Thomas (Mystery/Suspense)  
*The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon (Realistic Fiction)

All titles will be available on OverDrive (username and password are student's tech credentials) and in print at the Beaver Area Middle School-High School Library. Additionally, copies may be available at the Beaver Memorial Library and the Midland Public Libraries or through interlibrary loan at your local public library. Barnes and Noble in Robinson Twp. and Cranberry Twp. will have the reading list on file also for those wishing to purchase a summer reading novel. Please see attached information about each title.

In addition to the required summer reading novel, students are encouraged to read additional titles from the PA Younger Readers' Choice nominated titles list. As Dr. Seuss wrote, "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Steve Wellendorf, Beaver Area High School Principal  
On behalf of the Beaver Area High School English/Language Arts Department

## Summer Reading Project

Students will choose a summer reading novel from the PA Young Reader's Choice Young Adult Nominated titles list for 2017-2018 (see attachment for more information about each title).

- Each student will complete a reading journal and submit it to the appropriate grade level class (English 9 or English 10) through Schoology or drop off a hard copy to the main office by **August 15, 2017**.
- Upon returning to school on August 23, 2017, students will complete a written response to one of the questions listed below. Students will be required to use quotes from the text (gathered while completing their summer reading journal) to support their answer.

Writing prompts:

- How realistic are the characters presented in the novel you read? Use specific quotes from the text to support your answer. Why are realistic characters important in literature?
- What is the main conflict of the novel? How is it shaped by other literary elements (setting, plot, characterization, theme)?
- What is the resolution of the novel? What literary elements (setting, plot, characterization, theme, conflict) impact the resolution? Do you agree with the resolution? Why or why not?
- What is the theme of the novel? How do the other literary elements (setting, characters, conflict, plot) shape the theme?
- Describe the setting and its importance to the characters and plot.
- Identify and describe the protagonist and antagonist. Provide details from the novel that established these characters.
- What events shape the plot? How do these events connect to the setting, characters, and/or conflict?
- What is the tone of the novel? What is the mood?
- Identify the author's purpose in writing this novel. How did he/she attain this purpose? What could he/she have done differently?
- Analyze the author's ability to write. What does the author do most effectively? What does the author do least effectively?
- If you were completing a "book in a bag", what four objects would you include to represent your novel? Why?
- How does your novel act as a mirror or window to life, society, etc.? Explain your answer using literary elements (setting, plot, characters, theme, conflict)