

Colonie Central High School
1 Raider Blvd.
Albany, NY 12205

June, 2010

Dear Incoming English 11 Students and Parents:

Reading is one of the most valuable and pleasurable habits you can develop. Much of our class time together next year will be spent reading, talking and writing about what we read.

As an incoming 11th grader, you must read The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow, as well as a book of your choice, over the course of the summer. You will be assessed on these two books at the end of September. The English 11 teachers strongly recommend that you complete the following procedures to ensure effective recall:

A. Keep notes on The Last Lecture including:

1. An outline or list of the advice the narrator imparts to his readers and the wisdom he has acquired over his lifetime.
2. A list of morals/values/themes he conveys throughout the novel and his purpose for them.

AND

B. Keep notes on your choice book including:

1. A list of main characters and descriptions of each.
2. A brief outline of the plot.
3. The literary devices used (for example, characterization, irony, symbolism, plot structure, point of view, flashback, etc.) and an explanation of how they contribute to author's intent and your understanding of the book.

- On the back, you will find a list of **suggested** fiction and nonfiction reading choices. You may select your choice book from that list or select a choice book on your own.

English 11 is an exciting and challenging course. Reading over the summer will assist in your preparation for the Regents exam taken in January. Enjoy your summer! We look forward to meeting with you in September.

Sincerely,

The English Department

Suggested Titles

Fiction

Girl With a Pearl Earring – Tracy Chevalier

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – Mark Haddon

Cold Skin – Steven Herrick

Swim the Fly – Don Calame

Wintergirls – Laurie Halse Anderson

The Alchemist – Paulo Coelho

An Abundance of Catherines – John Greene

Nonfiction

Long Walk to Freedom – Nelson Mandela

Running With Scissors – Augusten Burroughs

Three Little Words: A Memoir – Ashley Rhodes-Courter

Nickel and Dimed: On Not Getting By in America – Barbara Ehrenreich

The Explosive Truth Behind 30 of the Most Perplexing Urban Legends of All Time – Keith & Kent
Zimmerman

No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row – Susan Kuklin

With Their Eyes: A View From a High School at Ground Zero – ed. by Annie Thomas

In These Girls: Hope is a Muscle – Madeline Blais