

Incoming 11th Grade Required Summer Reading 2009

Bellaire High School

Incoming 11th Grade Academic & College Prep English

(total required reading: 1 book)

- All students must read ONE of the following:

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

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

Sunrise over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers

ASSIGNMENT

During the first week of school, students should be prepared for an exam over their chosen book. Students should also be prepared to complete an in-class creative writing assignment—rewrite the final chapter, rewrite a passage from a different character's point of view, or creatively rewrite a portion of the story in an alternative format. As you read, consider what portions you might like to re-write, or from what character's point of view you might like to re-tell parts of the story. Perhaps you would like to re-write part of the story as another genre, such as drama or science fiction.

Students may contact the following teachers with any questions about the assignment:

Ms. Bosman pbosman@houstonisd.org

Ms. Lopez mlopez34@houstonisd.org

Mrs. Brownfield mbrownfi@houstonisd.org

Mr. Olsen molsen@houstonisd.org

Ms. Davis gdavis6@houstonisd.org

All BHS required summer reading books are readily available at most major bookstores and on-line booksellers.

ABOUT the BOOKS:

The Book Thief

It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. . . .

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. (from www.barnesandnoble.com)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Christopher Boone is a fifteen and has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a great deal about math and very little about human beings. When he finds his neighbors' dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his world upside down. (from www.barnesandnoble.com)

Sunrise over Fallujah

Operation Iraqi Freedom, that's the code name. But the young men and women in the military's Civil Affairs Battalion have a simpler name for it: WAR.

In this new novel, Walter Dean Myers looks at a contemporary war with the same power and searing insight he brought to the Vietnam war of his classic, *FALLEN ANGELS*. He creates memorable characters like the book's narrator, Birdy, a young recruit from Harlem who's questioning why he even enlisted; Marla, a blond, tough-talking, wisecracking gunner; Jonesy, a guitar-playing bluesman who just wants to make it back to Georgia and open a club; and a whole unit of other young men and women and drops them incountry in Iraq, where they are supposed to help secure and stabilize Iraq and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. The young civil affairs soldiers soon find their definition of "winning" ever more elusive and their good intentions being replaced by terms like "survival" and "despair."

Caught in the crossfire, Myers' richly rendered characters are just beginning to understand the meaning of war in this powerful, realistic novel of our times. (from www.barnesandnoble.com)