

# West Seneca West Senior High School

3330 Seneca St.  
West Seneca, NY 14224

June 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians of English II Students:

Summer reading is part of West Senior's English curriculum. Reading during the summer develops lifelong reading habits. Answering the analysis questions assists students in preparing for the New York State Common Core Regents Exam.

The reading choices for students entering English II are listed on the attached page and on the West Senior page of the district website. Students are required to read at least one book on the summer reading list and complete the Summer Reading Notes, which is also attached and posted on the district website. Students should read the book and complete the Summer Reading Notes by the last week of August and bring the completed assignment with them on the first day of school.

The Summer Reading Notes and other assignments related to the summer reading will be assessed during the opening weeks of the 2018-2019 academic year and will count in the first marking period. Students should be reminded that failure to complete summer reading will negatively affect their grade and possibly lead to academic eligibility issues. Please refer to the district website for more information regarding academic eligibility.

The books on the list cover a wide range of reading levels and genres. If you need help selecting a book that is appropriate for you, please see your current English teacher or Mrs. Knaze before the end of school in June, or ask a librarian at the local library. Books may be obtained at the public library or purchased at a bookstore. In addition, books may be available in digital format or free on sites such as Project Gutenberg. Students will need to use their books to complete the Summer Reading Notes.

We believe this program will enhance our students' reading skills. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to an exciting and successful school year with your children.

Sincerely,

The Faculty of the West Seneca West English Department

**Summer Reading List for Students Entering English II, 2018**

**Teen Issues**

- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- *Far From the Tree* by Robin Benway

### **Sports**

- *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John
- *7 Days at the Hot Corner* by Terry Trueman
- *Training Camp: What the Best Do Better than Everyone Else* by Jon Gordon

### **Adventure**

- *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* by Aron Ralston

### **Fantasy/Other Worlds**

- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black
- *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende and Magda Bogin

### **Science & Technology**

- *The Final Six* by Alexandra Monir
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson

### **Romance**

- *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen

### **Historical Fiction**

- *City of Thieves* by David Benioff
- *Salt to the Sea* by Ruth Seplys

### **Mystery/Suspense/Thrillers**

- *Truly Devious* by Maureen Johnson
- *People Like Us* by Dana Mele

### **Friendships**

- *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera

### **Social Issues**

- *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March* by Cynthia Levinson
- *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake

### **Guy Stuff**

- *The Fever Code* by James Dashner
- *Buried Onions* by Gary Soto

### **Non-Fiction**

- *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater
- *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobbs

### **Classics**

- *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
- *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath

### **Summer Reading Notes**

**Please answer the following on a separate sheet of paper. You may type these notes if you prefer. Do not consult online resources or other literature guides for assistance. Be sure to reference the entire book in answering the questions.**

1. List the title and author of your book.
2. Explain how this book fits into the genre under which it is listed on the summer reading list.
3. Provide a description of at least two of the major characters in the story. For each character, include quoted lines from the text which reveal the character's personality to the reader.
4. Describe the setting (time AND place) in detail.
5. Describe the rising action of the book. If the book is non-fiction, describe at least 2 important events.
6. Identify and describe the climax of the text. If the book is non-fiction, explain two conflicts that occur within the book.
7. Discuss the falling action. If the book is non-fiction, describe at least 2 more important events (different from the events in #5 & #6).
8. Explain the ending of the book. Explain why you liked or disliked the ending.
9. Discuss the author's use of symbolism, foreshadowing or flashback.
10. Discuss a turning point in the novel other than the climax. Explain why this was a turning point. If the book is non-fiction, discuss a shift in a person's behavior, or in the action or tone of the story.
11. What is a theme that is presented within this work? Explain how the theme is developed by events from the text.
12. What stylistic devices did the author use? (What did you notice about the way the book was written?)
13. Quote an important line(s) from the book and explain the significance. Include the chapter and page number of the quoted line(s).
14. What type of reader would enjoy this book? Explain your response.
15. List other books written by this author. If this is the only book written by this author, list at least 2 books that are similar in subject matter or genre.