

## Summer Reading Assignments 2010

Due date: the first day of school

### All School

This year, the entire school will be reading one book for the summer: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. This novel, often seen as a coming-of-age novel, tells the story of three generations in a poor but proud American family, and offers an interesting portrait of life at the turn of the century in an urban setting. The book deals with the themes of poverty and gender and grapples with issues surrounding immigrants and families. The novel is available in libraries everywhere, at bookstores, and online (used and new).

We also encourage you to read other free choice books during the summer months.

If you would like suggestions for additional summer reading books, please see the following websites or visit your local libraries for suggested titles:

Boston Latin School: Look at the right for the “Summer Reading Lists by Grade”

<http://www.bls.org/podium/default.aspx?t=115761>

Boston Public Library: Click on the link “Summer Reading Lists” <http://www.bpl.org/summer/>

Enjoy your summer of reading!

### Course Specific Summer Reading Assignments 2010

#### Division 1 (Grades 6 & 7)

This summer, Division 1 students will read *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi. *Nothing but the Truth* is a documentary-style novel that addresses such issues as relations among students, teachers, and schools; the complex nature of truth; and the exploitation of “hot button” issues by politicians and the media. This novel will help us begin our discussions of the role of the media in our lives for the course *Media and Journalism*.

For the novel, please write at least one paragraph (5-7 sentences) for each of the following questions. Some answers might require more than a one paragraph response! :

1. Did you enjoy the documentary style of the novel? How would it have been different if it had been written in a traditional narrative style?
2. How do readers decide what is true and what is not in this novel?
3. Is the novel’s rather bitter **resolution** satisfying or a letdown? Explain.

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4. How do the novel's **conflicts** and **themes** connect with current news stories, movies, or TV dramas? For this question you should list at least two conflicts and themes and provide at least two examples from current media.
5. The Harrison school district's motto is "Where Our Children Are Educated, Not Just Taught." What does the motto mean, and what would a school need to do to live up to it?
6. What does it mean to be patriotic? Discuss this with the people you see this summer. Write down their definitions. Afterwards, read through their responses and come up with your own.

Bring your responses, printed, to school on the first day of school!

### Divisions 2 & 3 (Grades 8, 9, & 10)

In addition to *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, read lots more. For two (2) of the book you read, please prepare a typed report that includes the following:

For each book you read, please prepare a typed report that includes the following:

1. Your name
2. The date you completed the report
3. The title and author of the book (Book titles should be underlined or printed in italics.)
4. A piece of writing that conveys the essential plot elements of the book, along with any analysis or commentary you may wish to include. This should be an original composition in one of the following formats. (You may wish to submit a variety of report types depending on how many books you read.)
  - A letter from the author to a friend or relative, in which the writer discusses the book he or she has just completed
  - A diary entry (or entries) by one of the characters
  - A letter—or exchange of letters—from one character to another
  - An imagined interview with the author in which the interviewer asks questions about the book, and the author answers them
  - An interior monologue in which the author thinks about the book
  - A speech given by someone presenting the author with an award for the book
  - The idea, as you may have guessed, is for this work to be truly your own and for you to think about an effective way to convey the most important ideas in your books.

**Length:** one typed page per book (Please use 12-point type, 1.5 spacing, and Times New Roman or a similar font.)

### Division 4 (Grades 11 & 12)

Finish reading *Predictably Irrational*. For two favorite chapters, complete the sheet we were using: [http://www.meridianacademy.org/parents\\_&\\_students/hw\\_portal/mst/documents/PredictablyIrrationalChapterNotes.pdf](http://www.meridianacademy.org/parents_&_students/hw_portal/mst/documents/PredictablyIrrationalChapterNotes.pdf). Submit these to Josh on the first day of school.