Weaver Academy 2009 Summer Reading Choices for Honors English 10

Choose One (Assignment Page follows Choices for Honors English 10)

All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque

This is the testament of Paul Baumer, who enlists with his classmates in the German army of WWI. They become soldiers with youthful enthusiasm. But the world of work, duty, culture, and progress they had been taught breaks into pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches. Through years of vivid horror, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principle of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other, of only he can come out of the war alive.

Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah

This book is a riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s. A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for – the love and understanding of her family.

Gorillas in the Mist, Dian Fossey

One of the most important books ever written about our connection to the natural world, this is the riveting account of the author's thirteen years in a remote African rain forest with the greatest of the great apes. Fossey's extraordinary efforts to ensure the future of the rain forest and its remaining mountain gorillas are captured in her own words and in candid photographs of this fascinating endangered species. Although Fossey's work ended tragically in her murder, this true story remains an invaluable testament to one of the longest-running field studies of primates and reveals her undying passion for her subject.

My Forbidden Face, Latifa

A moving tale of oppression and courageous defiance, this is the true story of a teenage girl growing up in war torn Afghanistan. From 1997-2001, sixteen-year-old Latifa was a prisoner in her own home as the Taliban wreaked havoc on the lives of Afghan girls and women. The oppressive regime banned women from working, schools, public life , even from leaving home without a male relative; female faces were outlawed as the burka become mandatory. Like a contemporary Anne Frank, Latifa was forced to observe, absorb, and make sense of what was happening to women and her country from the confines of her four walls.

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson

On San Piedro, an island of rugged, spectacular beauty in Puget Sound, a Japanese-American fisherman stands trial for murder. Set in 1954 in the shadow of World War II, Snow Falling on Cedars is a beautifully crafted courtroom drama, love story, and war novel, illuminating the psychology of a community, the ambiguities of justice, the racism that persists even between neighbors, and the necessity of individual moral action despite the indifference of nature and circumstance.

Accompanying Assignments for Honors English 10

For the one book you have chosen to read from your summer reading list complete a Dialectical Journal, also known as text connections (see below), and in addition, complete a creative project. This could very easily pertain to your area of concentration or a special talent you have. Examples of this could be a sculpture or painting which reflects what the work meant to you; an original piece of music or song which you would play or perform capturing the mood of the piece; an original dance to music which portrays the theme of the work or one character from the work, an oral interpretive reading of a selection from the work, artistically design a set if the work were going to be adapted as a play or a large movie poster if it were adapted to a screenplay; a CD which records music which takes the listener through the book. For you creative writers, you could write a collection of poems relating to the work or excerpts of a character's journal. These are just some ideas you can use as a springboard; be sure you are prepared to explain your project.

Dialectical Journaling (Text Connections)

A dialectical journal is a double entry reading journal. It requires at least one text, a sheet of lined notebook paper, and a writing implement.

On the left side of the lined page, write down a meaningful word, phrase, or a line or two from the text you are reading. Document the page where the quote is located within the text.

On the right hand side of the page, reflect, react, or respond to the words, phrases, or lines you've taken from the text. You may also write questions for yourself about the text or hypothetically pose questions to the author, speaker, or narrator of the text.

The purposes of the dialectical journal are for you to make personal connections to the text, practice deeper critical thinking skills, reflect on the relevance of the text, and learn how to craft good, open-ended, probing questions.

EXAMPLE:

A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift, from 40 Model Essays

Dialectical Journal

Page	**Quotation**	**Reader Reaction**
Page 362	"I have no children by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine, and my wife past childbearing."	No wonder Swift proposes his outrageous solution to the social problem of poverty and hunger. He has nothing to lose. I wonder how I would react if I were a parent reading this!