

## 2010-2011 PRE-REQUISITE READING

English IV Honors

### DUE FIRST DAY OF ENGLISH CLASS

#### **PART ONE**

The first part of the assignment is simple:

**BUY A BOOK!**

**READ IT!**

**BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS!**

You need to purchase a novel (hardback or paper) that has been first published within the past five years. The more recent, the better. Check the Best Seller lists (fiction) at the libraries, bookstores, Walmart, etc. for the most recent novels. You may check the publication date on the backside of the title page at the front of the book. Make sure that the book is not a reprint of a novel that was published much earlier. If you have doubts, then read the information on the back cover, introductory remarks, author information, etc. that you can find with a quick browse through the book. You will not receive credit for the assignment if you fail to meet this requirement, no matter if you thought you were reading a novel first published within the past five years and instead picked up one published earlier. It's your responsibility to find out and make sure.

You should NOT read one of those classics that you might have to STUDY for school. You SHOULD pick up a book that you might (yes, actually might) ENJOY READING. The nationality of the author does not matter.

Of course, since this is school, there are strings attached with this assignment.

1. You must select a book that is at least 250 pages.
2. You must find at least one review in a newspaper, magazine, or online (do a Google search using the book's title along with the word *review*). Libraries (Canton, Waynesville, Maggie Valley) will let you use their computers, if you are polite. Cut out or print this review and bring it to the first class meeting, along with your book. The review must be from an accredited source (Amazon.com Editorial Reviews, *The New York Times*, etc.)
3. Be prepared to say something intelligent about the book that goes beyond just the plot. Think about connections with real people and things that you know and be able to explain how the book connects. To say it does not connect to anything is not acceptable. On the first day of class, you will be asked to construct an argument (not a quarrel) that maintains the book (although fiction) connects with the real world in some way. THINK about the book; don't just read it.
4. Create and bring with you two discussion questions (and answers) that a teacher might ask about the book if it had been assigned in class. A discussion question is one that requires thoughtful insight as an answer - not one word. Discussion questions are just that - discussion.

*Obviously, some of you may read the same titles. That's OK, but each of you must have a copy of whatever titles you read.*

## **PART TWO**

In addition to reading a novel published within the last year, you should choose one novel from the list below and complete the same assignment in items 2, 3, and 4 above. You may use local libraries to borrow these titles, in they are available, or you may be able to find these novels in bookstores in the area. Ordering them from sites such as *amazon.com*, *booksense.com*, and other online bookstores is a possibility. Online booksellers usually have a brief description of the novels, so you might browse through them to get an idea of which of the title you might enjoy. Some of these could be interesting. These titles are comprised of recent winners and nominees for the best full-length novel in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Man Booker Prize is considered the most prestigious. (Some titles may be duplicated between the lists.)

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### **The Booker Prize**

The Man Booker Prize is awarded for the best novel written in English by a citizen of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland.

**2009:** Hilary Mantel - *Wolf Hall*

**2008:** Arvind Adiga - *The White Tiger*

**2007:** *The Gathering*, Anne Enright

**2006:** Kiran Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss*

**2005:** *The Sea*, John Banville

**2004:** *The Line of Beauty*, Alan Hollinghurst

**2003:** *Vernon God Little*, DBC Pierre

### **The Orange Prize**

The Orange Prize for fiction was created in 1995 in response to a growing awareness that often the considerable achievements of women novelists were frequently being passed over by the major literary prizes. (These titles may be more difficult to locate.)

### **2010 Nominees**

*The Book Fires* by Jane Borodale

*The Boy Next Door* by Irene Sabatini

*After the Fire, A Still Small Voice* by Evie Wyld

**2009:** *Home* by Marilynne Robinson

**2008:** *The Road Home* by Rose Tremain

**2007:** *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi  
Adichie

**2006:** *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith

**2005:** *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel  
Shriver

**2004:** *Small Island* by Andrea Levy

**2003:** *Property* by Valerie Martin

**Costa Book Award (formerly the Whitbread Novel Award)**

The Costa Book of the Year Award celebrates the best of contemporary British writing. The Costa awards are given annually to authors who have lived in Great Britain or Ireland for at least three years.

**2009**

*A Scattering* by Christopher Reid

**2008**

*The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry

**2007**

Novel award: *Day* by AL Kennedy

First novel award: *What Was Lost* by Catherine O'Flynn

**2006**

*The Tenderness of Wolves* by Stef Penney

**2005**

*Shalimar the Clown* by Salman Rushdie

*The Accidental* by Ali Smith

**2004**

*Eve Green* by Susan Fletcher

*Small Island* by Andrea Levy

**2003**

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

by Mark Haddon

*Vernon God Little* by DBC Pierre

**2002**

*The Song of Names* by Norman Lebrecht

*Spies* by Michael Frayn

**PLEASE NOTE!**

**Some of these novels may contain adult language and situations you find uncomfortable. Please preview with reviews and publisher summaries. If the language or situations offend you, stop reading and select another title. No specific title is required for everyone to read!**