

### ***To the Parents of Students Who Will Take 9th Grade Honors English:***

All students who will be taking 9th grade honors English during the 2012-2013 school year are required to read a minimum of **five (5) books AND complete the attached book charts (one (1) for each book).**

Students **must complete** the following reading and book charts before the school year begins:

1. ***Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn**  
*An epistolary or novel written in letters, which portrays a society that begins to outlaw letters of the alphabet one by one*
2. ***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**  
*A futuristic cautionary tale which portrays a society where books are outlawed*

**These books represent a study in similar literary themes. Students will analyze the selections upon returning to school in the fall. While reading, students should think about the similarities in theme and societal reaction to plot events.**

Students are then to choose **one (1) book from each** of the following categories.

3. Understanding Historical Prejudice and Social Class Struggles
  - ***The Children of Willesden Lane* by Mona Golabek & Lee Cohen** (Nonfiction)
  - ***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry** (Screenplay)
  - ***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**
  - ***Hard Times* by Charles Dickens**
4. Making Tough Decisions and Growing Up
  - ***Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam, also published as *October Sky*** (Nonfiction)
  - ***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles**
5. Classics with Surprise Endings
  - ***Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie**
  - ***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë**

#### **Written Requirement:**

Students are required to complete the attached book charts. **One book chart must be completed for each novel. Students must use their original thoughts and quotations from the works only. No outside resources (Sparknotes.com and the like) should be used to complete the charts.**

**\*Students are required to bring their completed book charts with them to class on the first day of school.**

The books will be available at a variety of prices through a range of publishers and booksellers. Please obtain the full text, rather than the abridged, for each title. If your child has an available unabridged version of any of these books, the text may be used. The Abington Community Library will have copies available on loan throughout the summer. Students are encouraged to use the library. Upon returning to school in September of 2013, students will be evaluated on their reading of these texts. The summer reading book charts will also be assessed for completeness, effort, and neatness upon returning to school. The book charts are designed to help students prepare for their September evaluations and practice the critical reading skills that will be refined throughout the upcoming year.

These book selections represent a wide range of literary language and ideas. They are intended to introduce students to the kind of content they can expect to encounter in their honors level studies. In an effort to promote more opportunities for choice and personal reading enjoyment, this list contains a wide range of modern and classic titles.

Contemporary selections may contain brief instances of profanity. Parents are encouraged to take part in the process of choosing the best books for their children. Read book jackets and back covers to find the subjects and styles of greatest interest. While the texts should present some challenge to the students, they should also allow for hours of enjoyable reading. Furthermore, these selections will increase the body of literature upon which the students can draw as they learn to analyze ideas and discern meaning. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy reading!

Sincerely,

Abington Heights  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors  
English Teacher

## English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (1 of 5)

Book Title: *Fahrenheit 451*

Author Name: Ray Bradbury

**Main Characters:** Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.

Character name	Character description (paraphrased in your own words)

**Themes:** Identify and discuss three (3) important themes in the story.

Theme	Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)	How/why is the theme relevant to society today?

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

Quotation and Page Number	Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.

## English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (2 of 5)

Book Title: Ella Minnow Pea

Author Name: Mark Dunn

**Main Characters:** Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.

Character name	Character description (paraphrased in your own words)

**Themes:** Identify and discuss three (3) important themes in the story.

Theme	Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)	How/why is the theme relevant to society today?

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

Quotation and Page Number	Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.

## English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (3 of 5)

**Category:** Understanding Historical Prejudice and Social Class Struggles

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters** (Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.)

Character name	Character description (paraphrased in your own words)

**Themes:** Identify three (3) important themes in the story.

Theme	Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)	How/why is the theme relevant to society today?

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

Quotation and Page Number	Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.

## English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (4 of 5)

**Category:** Making Tough Decisions and Growing Up

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters** (Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.)

Character name	Character description (paraphrased in your own words)

**Themes:** Identify three (3) important themes in the story.

Theme	Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)	How/why is the theme relevant to society today?

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

Quotation and Page Number	Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.

## English 1 Honors Summer Reading Book Chart (5 of 5)

**Category:** Classics with Surprise Endings

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters** (Identify and describe the four (4) most important characters in the work.)

Character name	Character description (paraphrased in your own words)

**Themes:** Identify three (3) important themes in the story.

Theme	Explain how the author communicates the theme. (Identify specific incidents where the author explores the theme.)	How/why is the theme relevant to society today?

**Quotations:** Extract three (3) salient/significant/important quotations and provide the page number.

*\*Responses can be varied and unique to each reader. Significant quotations are those that: illustrate key themes, contain profound ideas, provoke a response within you (the reader), contain symbolism, capture key elements of the novel, make you think, and/or capture the author's style or voice.*

Quotation and Page Number	Explain why this quotation is significant/important in the story and/or in life.

