

C. H. McCANN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

2010 Summer Reading Program

In order to encourage the habit of reading, the English department of McCann Technical School is sponsoring a summer reading program for all students who will be attending McCann for the 2010/2011 school year. Each grade has been designated a different theme and corresponding study guide question which will serve as a connection to an investigation of that same theme in literature studied during the first quarter of the year.

All students must read one book from the list for their grade level in September 2010 and complete a summer reading response form. Students enrolled in English honors classes in grades ten through twelve must also read the honors book from their grade list and complete a second form. This summer reading assignment will be assessed by next year's English teacher during the first academic week and will count toward the 1st quarter grade.

The lists and response forms are available online at the McCann website @ <http://www.mccanntech.org> and also at <http://sites.google.com/site/westallmediacenter> or may be picked up in the school's main office over the summer.

Books should be available for loan from local public libraries and may also be purchased in paperback at most bookstores.

A limited number of copies will be available in the school office this summer for students with financial hardship. Audio versions of some titles will also be available for those students who require accommodations. Please call the school office @ 663-5383 x104 for further information.

Entering Grade 9

Theme: Facing Monsters

Anderson, Laurie Halse	<u>Twisted</u>	(FICTION) After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies, and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his new tough guy reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.
Choldenko, Gennifer	<u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u>	(FICTION) Moose, whose father has just gotten a job as a prison guard, moves with his family to Alcatraz Island in 1935 and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister Natalie.
Kantor, Melissa	<u>If I Have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's My Prince?</u>	(FICTION) When the father of high school sophomore, Lucy Norton, remarries, Lucy finds herself tormented by her two bratty stepsisters and a wicked stepmother.
King, Stephen	<u>The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon</u>	(SUSPENSE) To escape her family's constant bickering while on a hike on the Appalachian Trail, Trisha McFarland wanders off and strays deeper into a wilderness full of peril and terror. For solace when night falls, she tunes her Walkman to broadcasts of Boston Red Sox games and the gritty performances of her hero, number 36, relief pitcher Tom Gordon. And when her radio's reception begins to fade, Trisha imagines that Tom Gordon is with her -- her key to survival.
Sherman, Alexie	<u>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian</u>	(FICTION) Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian reservation to attend an all-white farm school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Study guide question (Grade 9): What conflict with their environment does a main character from your book face and what does he or she do to resolve it?

Entering Grade 10

Theme: Choices

Pfeffer, Susan	<u>Life As We Knew It (HONORS)</u>	(SCIENCE FICTION) Through journal entries, 16 year old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing world-wide tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
Cohn, Rachel	<u>Gingerbread</u>	(FICTION) When Cyd Charisse has trouble settling back into life after being booted out of boarding school, her parents agree to let her visit her biological father in New York City, whom she's only met once when he gave her Gingerbread, a still-treasured rag doll.
McDonald, Joyce	<u>Swallowing Stones</u>	(FICTION) Chronicles the aftermath of 17 year old Michael MacKenzie's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle and unknowingly kills the father of high school classmate Jenna Ward.
Murdock, Catherine	<u>Dairy Queen</u>	(FICTION) After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.
Quinn, Spencer	<u>Dog On It</u>	(MYSTERY) Chet, the canine companion to Bernie, a down-on-his-luck private investigator, narrates his key role in helping his owner track down a missing high school girl whose disappearance was initially written off as a typical case of a runaway teen.
Sonnenblick, Jordan	<u>Notes from the Midnight Driver</u>	(FICTION) After stealing the family car and running over a lawn gnome, Alex is assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, where he befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love and forgiveness.

Study guide question (Grade 10): Each of the main characters from these books is faced with choices in their lives. How does one of the characters decide which choices to make and why does he or she make them?

Entering Grade 11

Theme: Self-Identity

Hosseini, Khaled	<u>A Thousand Splendid Suns</u> (HONORS)	(FICTION) The lives of two Afghani women, a generation apart, are entwined as they endure the struggles of family life under the oppression of the Taliban.
Mikaelsen, Ben	<u>Touching Spirit Bear</u>	(FICTION) In order to avoid going to prison after his anger erupts into violence, Cole agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice and is sent to a remote Alaskan island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.
Shusterman, Neal	<u>The Schwa Was Here</u>	(FICTION) Calvin Schwa, a boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone, is encouraged by his friend Antsy Bonano to use his “invisibility” to his advantage.
Sharenow, Robert	<u>My Mother the Cheerleader</u>	(FICTION) Louise, a sensitive high school student, is pulled out of school by her mother, a member of the local anti-segregationist group called the Cheerleaders, who gather every morning to heckle six year old Ruby Bridges, William Franz Elementary’s first African-American student.
Tashjian, Janet	<u>The Gospel According to Larry</u>	(FICTION) Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a website that is receiving national attention.
Tankersly Cusick, Richie	<u>Walk of the Spirits</u>	(FICTION) After losing everything in a Florida hurricane, Miranda and her mother move to her grandfather’s home in Louisiana, where she falls in with an interesting group of students and discovers that she can communicate with spirits like her grandfather did.

Study guide question (Grade 11): The main characters in these books are changed by the environment or circumstances in which they find themselves. What changes do one or more of the main characters go through and what lessons do they learn?

Entering Grade 12

Theme: Heroes

Zusak, Markus	<u>The Book Thief</u> (HONORS)	(FICTION) Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.
Bruchac, Joseph	<u>March toward the Thunder</u>	(HISTORICAL FICTION) Luis Nolette, a 15 year old Abenaki Indian, joins the Irish Brigade in 1864 to fight for the Union in the Civil War. Based on a true story of the author's great grandfather.
Cashore, Kristin	<u>Graceling</u>	(FANTASY) In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace, the Grace of killing, and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.
Kagen, Lesley	<u>Land of a Hundred Wonders</u>	(MYSTERY) Gibby McGraw, rendered NQR (Not Quite Right) after the automobile accident that claimed the life of her parents, bussess tables at her grandpa's diner and dreams of becoming an ace reporter. She stumbles upon a murder scene and decides to prove to herself and the small community of Cray Ridge, Kentucky that she is Quite Right after all.
Mortenson, Greg & David Oliver Relin	<u>Three Cups of Tea</u>	(NON-FICTION) After a failed attempt at climbing K2, the author is nursed back to health by Pakistani villagers, and promises to return to build a school for their children.
Satrapa, Marjane	<u>Persepolis: the Story of a Childhood</u>	(GRAPHIC NOVEL) The author recalls the story of her life growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution as she witnesses the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.
Walls, Jeannette	<u>The Glass Castle: a Memoir</u>	(AUTOBIOGRAPHY) The author narrates her nomadic childhood as she struggled to escape poverty and her dysfunctional but loyal family.

Study guide question (Grade 12): Citing specific passages from the book, what makes one of the main characters a hero in your eyes?