



ONE OF THE CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**  
301 HANBURY ROAD WEST • CHESAPEAKE, VA 23322  
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May 18, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is enrolled in Honors English at Great Bridge High School for the 2009-2010 academic school year. I extend to you a pledge to challenge your child in all aspects of language study, including writing, reading, grammar, and oral communications.

In anticipation of the rigorous course of study, your child will be required to read novels, plays, and/or essays during the summer. The list of required summer reading is attached to this letter and will be made available to local libraries and bookstores. It is advisable for students to purchase the books. Used copies of the books may be found at reduced prices on the Internet.

During the first week of English class, students will be required to turn in assessments on the required reading assignment. Required tests or essays will be completed in class during the first marking period. Please review the assessments over the summer with your child as they will play a role in the calculation of your child's English grade. A sample of A dialectic response journal is located on the Great Bridge High School website. You may access the site at [www.cps.k12.va.us](http://www.cps.k12.va.us).

Remember, students should be prepared with assessments on the first day of class in September or January depending upon their schedule. It is advised that students with English in January complete the assessments over the summer and use the time at the end of first semester to review the assignments for second semester. Should you have any questions about the summer reading, please call me at 482-5191, or e-mail me at [russecan@cps.k12.va.us](mailto:russecan@cps.k12.va.us). I look forward to working with your child.

Sincerely,

Carol B. Russell  
English Department

Joyce Dugan  
Assistant Principal for Instruction

**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT  
HONORS 12**

The following literature selections may be used for the summer reading assessment for incoming Honors 12 English students at Great Bridge High School. The assessment will be due the first day of class. It will be counted as a test grade in Honors English 12.

**Book Choices:  
(CHOOSE ONE)**

*Angels and Demons*                      by Dan Brown

*The Secret Life of Bees*                by Sue Monk Kidd

*The Kite Runner*                        by Khaled Hosseini

*The Road*                                    by Cormac McCarthy

**Assessment:**

The student will answer the attached questions for one of the novels. The assignment is due the first day of class. It will count as one test grade.

## TEST – NOVEL

### *Summer Reading – Honors English 12*

#### **Analysis Questions**

- \* Answer each question in the form of a **well-developed paragraph** (topic sentence, supporting sentences, concluding sentence).
- \* **Give adequate support** by making specific references (including page numbers) to actions, descriptions, and dialogue within the novel.
- \* **Employ explanation and elaboration** as necessary to establish coherence and justify your interpretation.

#### **Plot**

1. **Discuss the development of tension(s) or suspense in the novel.**
  - a. Identify one or two points in the novel when tension is highest.
  - b. How does the author establish the situation(s) of tension?
  - c. Is the technique effective for the novel as a whole?

#### **Characterization**

1. **Describe the psychology of the protagonist.**
  - a. Identify the character's dominant traits or desires.
  - b. How did the traits/desires apparently originate?
  - c. Do the major traits/desires support or oppose one another?

#### **Narrative Manner**

1. **Analyze the point of view employed by the author.**
  - a. What is the predominant point of view in the novel, and who seems to be the focal character?
  - b. How do the qualities of the focal character influence the reader's perceptions?
  - c. Describe the breadth or narrowness of vision generated for the reader through this method of narration. How does this vision affect the novel as a whole?

#### **Theme**

1. **Examine the process used to illustrate the basic theme or idea.**
  - a. What specified social problem does the author seem to regard as unsolved?
  - b. What causes seem to be mainly responsible for the problem?
  - c. From where is the reader led to believe a solution may come?