



May 2010

**Class of 2012**

Dear English III/American Studies Student,

The English department requires all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to read at least **one** book during the summer. You should select **one** book from the list we have provided for you on the back of this letter. Your choices include fiction and non-fiction stories. All these books tie in with the themes and issues you will discuss in your English classes throughout the year.

When you meet your English teacher in August, s/he will give you an assignment about your summer reading book. You will be expected to discuss the book and complete a related assessment. As you read, answer the two (2) guiding questions on the back of this sheet. **Remember that you will be held accountable for reading a book from the list; you will receive a grade that will be 5% of your first quarter average. Please bring the book to class with you on the first day of school.**

We think that it is important for families to read and discuss together, so we encourage your parents to read the book also. Local bookstores such as Anderson's, Barnes and Noble, and Borders have been notified of East's selections. All community libraries have also been informed of our summer reading program. These books are available through amazon.com, or any other on-line bookstore. You should not have any difficulty locating these books.

If you wish to discuss your book(s) with other students or if you need some assistance, access your First Class email account this summer. In the English Conference area you will find a Summer Reading Conference area for your grade level. Use this conference as a message board to discuss and ask questions about your book(s).

Thanks for reading a good book this summer. If possible, read several. Enjoy the rays and a great read!

Sincerely,

James Hultgren

Nicole Osborne

Debra Bobinsky

Jenn Parlier

Becki Fornelli

Connie Cain

Beth Freeman

Andrea Gunn

Eric Lemke

**English III and American Studies  
Summer Reading Choices**

***Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer**

True story of a mountain climb to Mount Everest, it's a haunting story of the failed May 1996 climbing expedition.

***Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko**

Twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan and his family move to Alcatraz Island in 1935, where his father gets a job as a prison guard. Things look up for Moose when he befriends Piper, the warden's daughter.

***What Happened to Lani Garver* by Carol Plum-Ucci**

Sixteen-year-old Claire McKenzie is unable to face her fears about a recurrence of her leukemia, her eating disorder, and her mother's alcoholism. Then the enigmatic Lani Garver helps her get control of her life, at the risk of his own.

***This Lullaby* by Sarah Dessen**

Raised by her mother who has had five husbands, 18-year-old Remy believes in short-term, no-commitment relationships until she meets Dexter, a rock band musician.

***What is the What?* by Dave Eggers**

A telling of a group of Sudanese Lost Boys as they go from refugee camps to the United States. Man-eating lions, walking all night, civil war, starvation, disease, and alligator attacks just scratch the surface of their adventures. You'll not believe your own eyes!

***Memory of Running* by Ron McLarty**

Every decade seems to produce a novel that captures the public's imagination with a story that sweeps readers up and takes them on a thrilling, unforgettable ride. Ron McLarty's *The Memory of Running* is this decade's novel. By all accounts, especially his own, Smithson "Smithy" Ide is a loser. An overweight, friendless, chain-smoking, forty-three-year-old drunk, Smithy's life becomes completely unhinged when he loses his parents and long-lost sister within the span of one week. Rolling down the driveway of his parents' house in Rhode Island on his old Raleigh bicycle to escape his grief, the emotionally bereft Smithy embarks on an epic, hilarious, luminous, and extraordinary journey of discovery and redemption.

**Purpose-setting Question:** What conflicts is the major character dealing with in the novel? Are they internal or external?

**Theme-related Question:** Describe how these conflicts help shape the main character's identity.