



May 2010

Class of 2013

Dear English II Student,

Glenbard East English teachers look forward to meeting you next fall and discussing the book(s) you chose for summer reading.

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 grade appropriate list that we have attached to this letter. Your choices include adventure stories, science fiction, non-fiction, and historical fiction, as well as plain old love stories. All of these books tie in with the themes and issues you will discuss in your English classes throughout the year. We also believe that you will find these books enjoyable.

When you meet your English teacher in August, s/he will give you an assignment about your summer reading book. This assignment will not be a test; however, you will be expected to discuss the book and perhaps complete a project, or make an oral presentation. **Know that you will be held accountable for reading a book from the list and will receive a grade based on this book that will be figured into your first quarter average. Please bring the book to class with you on the first day of school.**

As you read, use the two book-specific questions (attached to this document) to guide your reading. **Note: You are not required to write out the answers to these questions.**

We think that it is important for families to read and discuss together, so we encourage parents to read these books also. Local bookstores such as Borders and Barnes and Noble 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 have no difficulty locating any of these books.

Thanks for reading a good book this summer. If possible, read several. We look forward to meeting you in August. In the meantime, enjoy the rays and a great read!

Sincerely,

Bill Littell

Jasen Beste

Andrea Gunn

Dave Ripley

Jenn Ennis

Kathleen Enright

Emily Cosgrove

Jake Novak

English II
Summer Reading Choices

***Maximum Ride (The Angel Experiment)* by James Patterson**

14 year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock" – Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel – are just like ordinary kids – only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time.

Purpose-setting Question: Should it be legal for scientists to experiment on animals in order to test the safety and/or the effectiveness of certain products such as cosmetics and medicines? Should it be legal to experiment on humans for the same purposes?

Theme-related Question: One of the characters in this novel hears a voice that tells her she is destined to save the world. While reading the novel, decide which of Max's characteristics qualify her for this destiny and which of her characteristics don't.

***Diva* by Alex Flinn**

For most people, the word "diva" means brilliant, talented, over-the-top, and glamorous. Caitlin, however, feels trapped in the not-very-glamorous life of a cheerleader wannabe with serious ex-boyfriend issues and a permanent yo-yo diet. At least until the day she auditions for Miami High School of the Arts and – gets in! Then all she had to do is blackmail her mother to allow her to change schools and go downtown every day to hang with the "music geeks." But once she's there, Caitlin's not so sure she can cut it as a diva-in-training. *Diva* is the sequel to Alex Flinn's blockbuster, *Breathing Underwater*.

Purpose-setting Question: What kind of person is Caitlin? List at least 5 personality traits and 5 different examples from the text to support your answer. Consider the influence of other people in making her who she is.

Theme-related Question: How does Caitlin mature and grow from the beginning of the novel to the end?

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli**

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out – under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes – for Leo and for the entire school.

Purpose-setting Question: How do Leo's perceptions of Stargirl change throughout the book? How does this affect the way he interacts with Stargirl and others in the school?

Theme-relate Question: How does the theme of "fitting in" apply to Stargirl and Leo? Give two specific examples from the book. How important is "fitting in" to you? Give a specific example from your own life.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon**

Christopher Boone is fifteen and has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a great deal about math and very little about human beings. When he finds his neighbor's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey, which will turn his world upside down.

Purpose-setting Question: Describe the clues that Christopher uncovers to piece together the mystery behind the curious death of his neighbor's dog. Describe clues from the beginning, middle, and end of the story, and describe what other surprising discoveries Christopher makes along the way.

Theme-related Question: While people may label Christopher as having a disability, in what ways does he make sense of the world, and achieve the lofty goals he sets for himself?

***Black Like Me* by John Howard Griffin**

He trudged southern streets searching for a place where he could eat or rest, looking vainly for a job other than menial labor, feeling the "hate stare." He was John Griffin, a white man who darkened the color of his skin and crossed the line into a country of hate, fear, and hopelessness – the country of the American Black man.

Purpose-setting Question: How does John Griffin's view of himself change throughout the book? Note the different responses he has to seeing his reflection in the mirror. What do they reveal about his perception of his own identity as his skin color changes?

Theme-related Question: What specific ways is John Griffin treated differently as a black man? List 5 specific situations. What do you think is the biggest lesson he learns from this experience?

(book summaries adapted from Barnes and Noble website)