



Class of 2014

May 2010

Dear English 1 Student and Parents,

Glenbard East English I teachers look forward to meeting you this fall and discussing the book(s) you choose 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 list that we have provided for you in this packet. Your choices include adventure stories, science 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 class throughout the year.

No formal written response is required, however, beginning of the year activities will center around these books, so you might find it beneficial to take post-it notes or make margin comments as you read. The two guiding questions should be considered as you progress through each novel. 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; you will receive a grade that will be figured into 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 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, and should you have any questions feel free to contact the English Department Chair, Joan Witkus, via e-mail over the summer at [joan\\_witkus@glenbard.org](mailto:joan_witkus@glenbard.org). In the meantime, enjoy the rays and a great read!

Sincerely,

Jen O'Connor    Vanessa Perez    Jeff Kargol    Jenn Ennis

Nicole Osborne    Katie Posacki    James Hultgren    Laura Koenig

**English 1**  
**Summer Reading Choices**

***A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly**

Mattie Gokey, 16, a talented writer, promised her dying mother that she would always take care of her father and younger siblings. She is stuck on a farm, living in near poverty, with no way of escaping, even though she has been accepted at Barnard College. She promises to marry handsome Royal Loomis even though he doesn't appear to love her. Now, Mattie has promised Grace Brown, a guest at the Adirondack summer resort where she works, to burn two bundles of letters. Then, before she can comply, Grace's body is found in the lake, and the young man who was with her disappears, also presumably drowned. (Amazon.com)

**Purpose-setting Question:** Do you agree with Mattie's decision to go to New York? Use three different examples from the text to support your opinion.

**Theme-related Question:** A sense of identity is developed through the people and experiences we come across in life. Explain how the main character in the novel develops a sense of identity using specific examples from the novel to support your claim.

***The Schwa Was Here* by Neal Shusterman**

When Anthony "Antsy" Bonano and his friends meet Calvin Schwa, they are impressed and puzzled by his ability to appear and disappear before their very eyes. Antsy concocts a moneymaking scheme based on the Schwa's invisibility that seems promising until he and his friends overreach and are caught by the town's legendary mean millionaire, Mr. Crawley. Their resulting after school chores for Mr. Crawley cements and ultimately challenges friendships. As Antsy develops a deeper friendship with the Schwa, he realizes the Schwa's apparent invisibility has more serious consequences than he ever imagined. (Amazon.com)

**Purpose-setting Question:** How does the Schwa deal with his invisibility? Does he enjoy or hate his ability to go unnoticed? Do you think the Schwa's invisibility is an advantage or disadvantage?

**Theme-related Question:** A sense of identity is developed through the people and experiences we come across in life. Explain how the main character in the novel develops a sense of identity using specific examples from the novel to support your claim.

***The Greatest Muhammad Ali* by Walter Dean Myers**

Both Muhammad Ali's talent in the boxing ring and his showmanship earned him international fame, while his refusal to accept the stereotypical role of a black athletic star in the 1960s and his membership in the Nation of Islam brought him notoriety. Myers interweaves fight sequences with the boxer's life story and the political events and issues of the day. (Amazon.com)

**Purpose-setting Question:** What are some of the life struggles Ali faces outside the ring? How does he stand up to each struggle?

**Theme-related Question:** A sense of identity is developed through the people and experiences we come across in life. Explain how the main character in the novel develops a sense of identity using specific examples from the novel to support your claim.

### ***Gospel According to Larry* by Janet Tashjian**

Josh is bright, articulate, idealistic, and in love with Beth, the girl next door and his best friend since sixth grade. Afraid to tell her he likes her, he pours his energy into a Web site, through which his alter ego, Larry, discusses various topics such as tolerance, and anti-consumerism. Beth adores Larry, as do thousands of other teens and adults across the nation. Now Josh has a new problem: when and how does he reveal Larry's true identity to Beth? What effect will being honest have on Beth, Larry and the world? (Amazon.com)

**Purpose-setting Question:** How did Beth give Josh more confidence to reveal his identity? Why was this so important?

**Theme-related Question:** A sense of identity is developed through the people and experiences we come across in life. Explain how the main character in the novel develops a sense of identity using specific examples from the novel to support your claim.

### ***The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer**

Matteo Alacran is a feudal drug lord in the country of Opium, which lies between the United States and Aztlan, formerly Mexico. Field work, or any menial tasks, are done by "eejits," humans in whose brains computer chips have been installed to insure docility. Alacran, or El Patron, has lived 140 years with the help of transplants from a series of clones, a common practice among rich men in this world. The intelligence of clones is usually destroyed at birth, but Matt, the latest of Alacran's doubles, has been spared because he belongs to El Patron. He grows up in the family's mansion, alternately caged and despised as an animal and pampered and educated as El Patron's favorite. Gradually he realizes the fate that is in store for him, and with the help of Tam Lin, his bluff and kind Scottish bodyguard, he escapes to Aztlan. (Amazon.com)

**Purpose-setting Question:** In what ways does Matt overcome his role of clone throughout the novel?

**Theme-related Question:** A sense of identity is developed through the people and experiences we come across in life. Explain how the main character in the novel develops a sense of identity using specific examples from the novel to support your claim.

### ***Homeless Bird* by Gloria Whelan**

Thirteen-year-old Koly is getting married, not uncommon for girls her age in India. Although apprehensive, she knows this will lessen the financial burden on her family, and hopes for the best. Unfortunately, her husband is younger than promised, and sickly. Soon she is a homeless widow, deprived of her pension and abandoned by her selfish mother-in-law. She finds unexpected support in a widow's home, self-sufficiency in her gift of embroidery, and, ultimately, love and a new, rewarding life. (Amazon.com)

**Purpose-setting Question:** How does Koly overcome the obstacles in her life in this story?

**Theme-related Question:** A sense of identity is developed through the people and experiences we come across in life. Explain how the main character in the novel develops a sense of identity using specific examples from the novel to support your claim.

## ***Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld**

Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that teaches its citizens to believe that they are ugly until age 16 when they will undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." Anticipating this happy transformation, Tally meets Shay, another female ugly, who shares her enjoyment of hoverboarding and risky pranks. But Shay also disdains the false values and programmed conformity of the society and urges Tally to defect with her to the Smoke, a distant settlement of simple-living conscientious objectors. Tally declines, yet when Shay is found missing by the authorities, Tally is coerced by the cruel Dr. Cable to find her and her compatriots—or remain forever "ugly." (Amazon.com)

**Purpose-setting Question:** In what ways does this novel put an emphasis on physical beauty and how does this influence the actions and ideas of the characters?

**Theme-related Question:** A sense of identity is developed through the people and experiences we come across in life. Explain how the main character in the novel develops a sense of identity using specific examples from the novel to support your claim.