

May 2010



Dear ELL 3 Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the Glenbard East High School ELL program. We believe that reading is a wonderful form of entertainment as well as a means of discovering more about the world in which we live. Furthermore, reading novels is one of the most effective means for acquiring the English language. Because of the proof we have that students increase their vocabulary and comprehension through reading, once again our students will be doing Silent Sustained Reading in the ELL classrooms throughout the academic school year. We are also requiring ELL students to read at least one book over the summer.

ELL 3 students must read **one** of the following novels:

A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly
The Schwa Was Here by Neal Shusterman
Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian

All these books are available at local bookstores and libraries, which have been notified of this assignment. You may also order these books on the Internet at sites such as www.barnesandnoble.com and www.amazon.com.

Students will have to log their reading times, pages, and summaries on the Homework Reading Log. The ELL teachers have shown all students how to use this log. All students should use the form that accompanies this letter to log their reading. Once the students complete the form that is included, they may continue their logs on notebook paper. Teachers will collect and count these completed logs in the student's grades.

Within the first three weeks of school, students will be required to display their understanding of their novel of choice. During class time teachers will assign a project or a paper for the students to complete. At this time, students must show their comprehension of the novel that will be valued at 5% of the quarter grade.

Required Supplies:

- 2 inch - 3-ring binder
- 10 dividers with tabs
- Assignment Notebook (Glenbard East Planner)
- Loose Leaf Notebook paper (at least 100 sheets)
- Pen
- Pencils
- Highlighter
- Post-its (2-3 inch)
- One box of Kleenex (optional)

ELL 3 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 money making 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, Mrs. Crawley. Their resulting after school chores for Mr. Crawley cements and ultimately challenges friendships. As Antsy develops a deeper friendship with the Schwa, he realized the Schwa's apparent invisibility has more serious consequences than he ever imagined. This book explores friendship and identity through the mischievous, humorous relationship between the Schwa and Antsy. (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.

***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 anticonsumerism. 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.

We hope you have a great summer! Enjoy reading your book.

Ms. Susan McSherry