

**Honors English II
Norwalk High School
2011 Summer Reading List**

To ensure a successful program next year, it is necessary that Honors students have course-related reading and writing assignments during the summer. The following selections will complement the Sophomore Honors English curriculum.

Required Reading – Carefully read each of the following selections:

1. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
2. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
3. *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck
4. *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

Required Assignments – Student will complete the following assignments, which will be collected the first day of class.

I. Choose one prompt for each of the four books listed above. Make sure to choose a different prompt for each book.

1. What is your first reaction to this story? Write down any thoughts, opinions, or questions you may have about the story.
2. Choose one significant quote from the novel. Explain what you think the quote means about the characters in the story.
3. What does this story say about people in general? In what ways does the story remind you of people you have known or experiences you have had? You may write about other stories you have read, or television programs or movies you have seen that relate to the text.
4. Should this story be considered “good literature”? Write your definition of what makes a piece of literature “good”, and then explain how this story does or does not satisfy your definition. You may examine the author’s writing style, the effective use of literary elements, realistic conflicts, relatable characters, etc. Cite examples from the book that support your points.

II. After reading *The Palace Thief* by Ethan Canin, type a well organized and fully developed two-page essay that responds to the following questions.

- What ethical choices does Mr. Hundert face in the first, and later in the second, “Mr. Julius Caesar” competition? Does he face different choices in the second competition?
- Have you ever known anyone who cheated in a small way to gain an advantage? Did this person actually gain or suffer by cheating?
- To what extent are we surrounded by a culture of small ethical lapses? What difference do these “small lapses” make?

All responses must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 2 pages in length. In the top left-hand corner of the paper, type your name, Honors English II, Summer Reading Assessment, and the date (single spacing for heading only).

Papers are **due** in class **on the first day of school**. If you are unprepared, it will be considered a clear indication of your lack of commitment to the Honors Program, and it will be necessary for you to elect another sophomore English class at once.

Emma Perez-Rodriguez

Please tear off and attach to your writing assignment.

I read the requirements of the summer reading assignment. During the summer months, I read the required books and completed the required writing assignments. I understand that failure to complete all assignments requires placement in another sophomore English class. My parent(s)/guardian(s) has / have read the summer reading assignment and support your requirements.

Parent: _____

Student: _____