



GHS Summer Reading 2009

Dear Parents of **2009-2010 Grade 9 through 12 GHS Students,**

“We read because we need hope that things will get better, true love exists, good can vanquish evil, and we do not have to be torn apart by our own failings . . . reading reveals a better us and challenges us to reach for it.” This powerful message comes from Donalyn Miller, a language arts and social studies teacher known as “The Book Whisperer.” She is renowned for motivating her students to read independently and find books that inspire lifelong reading.

In a world that increasingly places demands on our young citizens to meet new challenges, reading and sharing our reading experiences offers the opportunity to involve us in conversation about how we might prepare to address these challenges. Therefore, once again, the Glastonbury High School English Departments and the Library/Media Specialists of Gideon Welles, Smith Middle School, and GHS are making a special effort to convey the importance of reading by asking all students to engage in reading over the summer. At GHS, a committee has worked to embellish and modify the summer reading program to better inspire, inform, and guide students toward choosing books matched to their interests and selecting articles connected to their chosen books. When students come to the high school in the fall, they will be given the opportunity to share their summer reading experiences. Our hope is that discussion of pleasurable reads and related articles will continue to promote lifelong reading habits and allow students to learn from one another.

We ask you to help us encourage the habit of reading by supporting the new summer reading requirement (modified from previous years). We trust that you share with us the desire to develop in our students a lifelong love of reading for pleasure and information. We invite you to read the titles your children choose, so that you can discuss them together. This is a great way to make your child’s reading even more meaningful.

The new summer reading requirement is that all students who will be in grades 9 through 12 should:

- **select and read ONE BOOK using the GHS Summer Reading List and other guiding resources they learned about in their English classes.**
- **locate and read ONE NONFICTION ARTICLE related to the book (refer to specific directions on Summer Reading Worksheet.)**
- **complete the Summer Reading Worksheet, have it signed by a parent/guardian, and bring it to English class during the first week of school when reading experiences will be shared.**

Students will receive instruction from library media specialists and English teachers in how to choose books and how to find related articles. By June 15th the Summer Reading List, Summer Reading Worksheet, and links to other helpful resources including the GHS Research databases will be available on the web portal at <https://www.glastonburyus.org/schools/glastonburyhigh/ghslibrary/summerreading>.

Thank you for your help in supporting our efforts to promote a culture that values independent reading for all that it can provide throughout a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Catherine Buchholz, Director of Language Arts & Reading
and Sarabeth Markham, GHS Head English Teacher