

## ***English 10 Honors Summer Reading 2010-2011 School Year***

Dear Parents and Incoming Sophomore Honors Students,

Recent research suggests that today's teens do not read enough outside of school. As part of a district goal to expand reading opportunities for students, the English Departments at Plainfield High School - Central Campus, Plainfield South High School, Plainfield East High School, and Plainfield North High School are requiring that all honors students read a novel over the summer. We believe this assignment will strengthen our students' skills as readers and also as writers. Additionally, many honors students will take the AP examinations during their junior year; thus it is imperative that each student is exposed to a wide range and background of literature, especially in the area of twentieth century authors and issues. Like Stratford P. Sherman, author of *America Won't Win Till it Reads More*, we believe "Reading transcends the mere transmission of information: It fosters an imaginative dialogue between the text and the reader's mind that actually helps people think."

Over the past few months, English teachers have read and discussed many possible titles for this summer reading program. We have chosen the following selections for incoming sophomore honors students. Please, choose **one novel** and complete a **typed dialectical journal** (the directions are on the back) to be turned in to the English 10 Honors teacher the **FIRST** day of student attendance. You will also be required to turn in your dialectical journal

to **turnitin.com** after the first day of class when you receive your class id and password from your teacher.

We will alert the managers of the local Barnes and Noble Bookstores so that they know there will be a demand for these novels this summer. This letter and the actual assignment are also included in the English Department's section of the school web site at: <http://www.psd202.org/PSHS/>

- ※ *Things Fall Apart* (Achebe)
- ※ *Martian Chronicles* (Bradbury)
- ※ *The Joy Luck Club* (Tan)
- ※ *Cat's Cradle* (Vonnegut)
- ※ *The Book Thief* (Zusak)

If you have any questions about the summer reading, feel free to contact Ms. Stashak at [ssstashak@psd202.org](mailto:ssstashak@psd202.org). We wish you an enjoyable summer and eagerly anticipate classes beginning in August.

Thank you,

- The English Faculty of Plainfield Schools

## *Creating a Dialectical Journal*

The purpose of a dialectical journal is to identify significant pieces of text and explain the significance. It is another form of highlighting/annotating a text and should be used to think about, digest, summarize, question, clarify, critique, and remember what is read.

This kind of writing is done in two columns with a quotation or fact from the text (*including page numbers*) on the left and the reader's corresponding comment on the right. It is evaluated on the basis of its quality as well as quantity; therefore, the reader will want to put thought into each entry. **Students should respond on a frequent, consistent basis throughout the reading of the novel. Quotations should reflect the entire novel. Suggested minimum is 40 comments.**

Quotation from Text	Reaction / Analysis
<p>Sentence, line, phrase, or paraphrase that demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An effective use of stylistic or literary devices</li> <li>• Structural shifts or turns in the plot</li> <li>• Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, or motifs</li> <li>• Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary</li> <li>• Character development</li> <li>• A connection to another piece of literature</li> <li>• Events that you find surprising or confusing</li> </ul>	<p>In this column, you will analyze the quotation from the text.</p>

### Examples:

Quotation from Text	Reaction / Analysis
<p>"I fled down an alley, past dark curtained shops and merchants washing the grime off their windows. I sped into the sunlight, into a large street crowded with tourists examining trinkets and souvenirs" (Tan 100).</p> <p>"This necklace that had almost bought my heart and mind now had one bead of crushed glass" (231).</p>	<p>This quotation is a great example of a light and dark reference because the dark alley represents Waverly's sheltered life at home, and the sun-filled street represents the world she hasn't yet discovered.</p> <p>The necklace was glass, not pearls. This is a reoccurring theme; the outside may be beautiful, but really, you can't just trust the way something looks.</p>
<p>Frank Hoenikker / Felix Hoenikker (Vonnegut 74-76).</p> <p>"In order to boost Monzano's popularity, 194-199, 216...xylophone virtuoso, 71" (120).</p>	<p>I think Vonnegut's purpose for creating Frank is for him to be a foil character to Felix. They are similar in that neither are loud, forceful people but are more passive. Both are also men of science but where Felix seemed to have no care of emotion, Frank has a conscience and a motive for his work.</p> <p>Vonnegut's writing style here reminds me of Daniel Handler's a.k.a. Lemony Snicket. They both use the sort of over-the-top, eccentric writing style. Vonnegut demonstrates this when he uses almost a whole page of index references to give the reader a small amount of information about Mona. Handler commonly does the same type of thing to give the reader information about a character, setting, or plot.</p>