

# **MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2009**

Summer reading is a requirement for all students. Students will be prepared to focus on the book(s) as the first unit of study in English class in September.

### **Requirements:**

**Grade 9 Honors (3 books total)**

**Everyone reads: Big Mouth, Ugly Girl** by Joyce Carol Oates

Ursula and Matt are high school students who develop a relationship. Ursula feels she is “Ugly Girl” and Matt deals with the repercussions of his off-hand comments about blowing up the school.

**Choose two from list below:**

**Grade 9 Honors choice list:**

1. **Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho** by Jon Katz

Geeks become heroes as Jesse and Eric leave their dead end lives in Idaho to brighter possibilities in Chicago.

2. **Autobiography of My Dead Brother** by Walter Dean Myers

Part graphic novel, this book tells of fifteen-year-old Jesse who lives in Harlem. This urban story of violence and wasted youth has been compared to photorealism: it paints a vivid and genuine portrait of life.

3. **Perks of Being a Wallflower** by Stephen Chbosky

An epistolary novel (written entirely in letters) tells of 9<sup>th</sup> grade Charlie who faces teen struggles while dealing with the death of an aunt and the suicide of a friend. Funny, touching, memorable.

**Grade 9 All other levels (2 books total)**

**Choose two from list below:**

**Grade 9 All other levels choice list:**

1. **Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho** by Jon Katz

Geeks become heroes as Jesse and Eric leave their dead end lives in Idaho to brighter possibilities in Chicago.

2. **Autobiography of My Dead Brother** by Walter Dean Myers

Part graphic novel, this book tells of fifteen year-old Jesse who lives in Harlem. This urban story of violence and wasted youth has been compared to photorealism: it paints a vivid and genuine portrait of life.

3. **Perks of Being a Wallflower** by Stephen Chbosky

Told in letters. 9<sup>th</sup> grade Charlie faces teen struggles-an intense crush, family tension, exploring sexuality, experimenting with drugs-all while dealing with the death of an aunt and the suicide of a friend. Funny, touching, memorable.

# **MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2009**

#### 4. **Big Mouth, Ugly Girl** by Joyce Carol Oats

Ursula and Matt are high school students who develop a relationship. Ursula feels she is “Ugly Girl” and Matt deals with the repercussions of his off-hand comments about blowing up the school.

#### 5. **Lucas** by Kevin Brooks

*Lucas* is a beautifully written allegorical tale. Set on an isolated island off Great Britain, the novel has it all –love, hate, sin, forgiveness and redemption, and a memorable title character. Caitlin, a 15-year-old girl, meets a mysterious boy Lucas, who lives off the land. The locals don’t understand Lucas, and see him as a threat. Lucas saves Caitlin from being attacked by a seemingly upstanding college student. This sets off a series of events that rapidly escalates into a brutal attack, accusations of attempted murder and a vigilante mob. Lucas, with his mixture of real and unearthly qualities is unique and unforgettable.

### **Requirements:**

#### **Grade 10 Honors (4 books total)**

##### **Everyone reads:**

#### 1. **The Portrait of Dorian Gray** by Oscar Wilde

A handsome young man delves into the realm of evil with no apparent ill effects. Do you wish to remain eternally young? Ask Dorian what it’s like.

#### 2. **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte

This stormy, intense, and introspective novel probes the psychology of passion and revolutionized the scope of romantic fiction. The heroine is a governess, an orphan, penniless and plain but full of courage and spirit. The hero is a brooding, melancholy figure, a stranger given to rough outbursts of temper.

#### 3. **Silas Marner** by George Eliot

Wrongly accused of a heinous theft that had been committed by his best friend, the gentle linen weaver, Silas Marner, goes into exile to become a miserly recluse. Will he find redemption? Will he find spiritual rebirth?

#### 4. **The Scarlet Pimpernel** by Baroness Emmuska Orczy

In 1792, during the French Revolution’s Reign of Terror, an English aristocrat known to be an ineffectual dandy is actually a master of disguises who, with a small bank of dedicated friends, undertakes dangerous missions to save members of the French nobility from the guillotine.

# **MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2009**

### **Grade 10 Humanities (2 books total)**

#### **Everyone reads:**

**King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table** by Roger L. Green  
The quests of King Arthur and his knights in the golden age of Logres will excite readers with tales of battles and romance.

#### **Choose one from list below:**

#### **Grade 10 Humanities choice list:**

1. **Persepolis** by Marjane Satrapi

Black-and-white comics depict Satrapi's adolescence in Tehran, the overthrow of the Shah, the rise of the Islamic Revolution, and the aftermath of the war with Iraq. Her story makes Iranian history and culture accessible to all of us.

2. **Postcards from No Man's Land** by Aidan Chambers

Two narratives blended in one. In the mid-90's seventeen year-old Jacob travels solo from England to the Netherlands to attend a ceremony honoring his grandfather who was a soldier during WWII. He meets his grandfather's nurse who tells the second narrative set in 1944 occupied Holland. Love, sexuality, and friendship link the stories of these two teens across time and give the reader a wider vision of the world.

3. **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams

Hapless hero Arthur Dent travels the galaxy, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc.

4. **Slam** by Nick Hornby

Fifteen-year-old Sam finds out his girlfriend is pregnant. This skater deals with his feelings of anger, confusion, humor, love and insight by talking to his imaginary friend, Tony Hawk, whose poster hangs on his wall. Tony helps him whiz ahead to see glimpses of what his future may hold.

5. **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

An epistolary novel (written entirely in letters) that shows the power of friendship, books and love set on Guernsey just after the Second World War. A successful British author, Juliet Ashton, receives a letter from Dawsey Adams, a stranger, native of Guernsey, and founding member of the Literary

# **MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2009**

and Potato Peel Pie Society, who has found her name in a book she had once owned. Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society's members, learning about the island, their taste in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives.

### **Grade 10 All other levels (2 books total)**

#### **Choose two books from the choice list:**

1. **Persepolis** by Marjane Satrapi

Black-and-white comics depict Satrapi's adolescence in Tehran, the overthrow of the Shah, the rise of the Islamic Revolution, and the aftermath of the war with Iraq. Her story makes Iranian history and culture accessible to all of us.

2. **Postcards from No Man's Land** by Aidan Chambers

Two narratives blended in one. In the mid-90's seventeen year-old Jacob travels solo from England to the Netherlands to attend a ceremony honoring his grandfather who was a soldier during WWII. He meets his grandfather's nurse who tells the second narrative set in 1944 occupied Holland. Love, sexuality, and friendship link the stories of these two teens across time and give the reader a wider vision of the world.

3. **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams

Hapless hero Arthur Dent travels the galaxy, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc.

4. **Slam** by Nick Hornby

Fifteen-year-old Sam finds out his girlfriend is pregnant. This skater deals with his feelings of anger, confusion, humor, love and insight by talking to his imaginary friend, Tony Hawk, whose poster hangs on his wall. Tony helps him whiz ahead to see glimpses of what his future may hold.

5. **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

An epistolary novel (written entirely in letters) that shows the power of friendship, books and love set on Guernsey just after the Second World War. A successful British author, Juliet Ashton, receives a letter from Dawsey Adams, a stranger, native of Guernsey, and founding member of the Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, who has found her name in a book she had once owned. Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society's members, learning about the island, their taste in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives.

# **MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2009**

### **Requirements:**

#### **Grade 11 AP (5 selections total)**

#### **Everyone reads:**

**1. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close: A Novel** by Jonathan Safran Foer

Nine year-old Oskar Schell has embarked on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts on an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and sometimes healing journey.

**2. This Boy's Life: A Memoir** by Tobias Wolff

This memoir introduces us to the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning. Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother are constantly on the move. As Toby fights for identity and self-respect against the unrelenting hostility of a new stepfather, his experiences are at once poignant and comical, and Wolff does a masterful job of re-creating the frustrations and cruelties of adolescence.

**3. Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho** by Jon Katz

Geeks become heroes as Jesse and Eric leave their dead end lives in Idaho to brighter possibilities in Chicago.

**4. The House on Mango Street** by Sandra Cisneros

This collection of short stories tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong-not to her rundown neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power, and inventing for herself what she will become.

**5. "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"** by Joyce Carol Oates

This short story can be found on the web at <http://jco.usfca.edu/works/wgoing/text.html> or in a collection of short stories of the same title.

# **MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2009**

### **Grade 11 Honors (3 books total)**

#### **Everyone reads:**

#### **1. The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck**

When The Grapes of Wrath was published in 1939, America, still recovering from the Great Depression, came face to face with itself in a startling, lyrical way. John Steinbeck gathered the country's recent shames and devastations—the Hoovervilles, the desperate, dirty children, the dissolution of kin, the oppressive labor conditions—in the Joad family. Then he set them down on a westward-running road, local dialect and all, for the world to acknowledge.

#### **2. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**

Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the depression, To Kill a Mockingbird follows three years in the life of eight year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem and their father, Atticus— three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up.

#### **3. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain**

Mark Twain's classic novel tells the story of a teen-aged misfit who finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. In the course of their perilous journey, Huck and Jim meet adventure, danger, and a cast of characters who are sometimes menacing and often hilarious.

### **Grade 11 American Studies and all other levels (2 books total)**

#### **Choose two from Grade 11 American Studies list below:**

#### **1. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

Death narrates the tale of Liesel, a nine year-old girl living with a foster family in Nazi Germany. She picks up the habit of stealing books which becomes the backbone of this tale.

#### **2. The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family by Dave Pelzer**

The second in the series of books about a boy who is abused. He explains how he grows beyond the abuse he endured.

#### **3. This Boy's Life: A Memoir by Tobias Wolff**

This memoir introduces us to the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning. Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother are constantly on

# **MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2009**

the move. As Toby fights for identity and self-respect against the unrelenting hostility of a new stepfather, his experiences are at once poignant and comical, and Wolff does a masterful job of re-creating the frustrations and cruelties of adolescence.

4. **Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Dream and a Team** by H.G. Bissinger

This work of non-fiction was written by a journalist who spent 1988 in Odessa, Texas. This town was obsessed with its champion high-school football team, the Permian Panthers. Bissinger brings us into his breathtaking examination of the town, the team, its coaches, and its young players' lives. The book describes an aspect of America's heartland which is honest, disturbing and unforgettable.

5. **The Last Lecture** by Randy Pausch

In September of 2007, computer science professor Randy Pausch delivered his last lecture at Carnegie Mellon University called "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams." During his lecture, Pausch explained that he was soon going to die of cancer. Despite this devastating news, Pausch was undaunted in his appreciation of the life he still had left and he reflected on his past. This inspiring lecture was picked up on YouTube and a phenomenon had begun. This book is based on the principle of celebrating your life that echoed through the lecture.

### **Requirements:**

#### **Grade 12 AP (4 books total)**

##### **Everyone reads:**

1. **Winesburg, Ohio** by Sherwood Anderson

In a connected series of short stories, Anderson exposes the anxieties, joys, tensions, and hopes of the inhabitants in a small American town that is representative of any community at any time.

2. **Hedda Gabler** by Henrik Ibsen

Hedda is one of the first "liberated" women in modern drama. Ibsen's shocking female protagonist continues to create much controversy even today.

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2009**

**3. Demian** by Hermann Hesse

In a society soon to be torn apart by war, a young student struggles with himself and others to find a purpose for his life in this brilliant novel of self-discovery.

**4. Heart of Darkness** by Joseph Conrad

The story reflects the physical and psychological shock Conrad himself experienced in 1890, when he worked briefly in the Belgian Congo. The narrator, Marlow, describes a journey he took on an African river. Assigned by an ivory company to take command of a cargo boat stranded in the interior, Marlow makes his way through the treacherous forest, witnessing the brutalization of the natives by white traders and hearing tantalizing stories of a Mr. Kurtz, the company's most successful representative.

**Grade 12 All other levels**

**Choose one book with parent permission**

**Parent permission forms will be distributed in May. Forms must be handed in to the teacher on the first day of English class in September.**