

Summer Reading Assignment English 2

Students registered for regular level English 2 should choose any **two** titles from those listed below. Both of these novels must be read before the start of the school year.

We recommend that students take notes on their reading. Assessment of the required summer reading will take place in all English classes in September.

Questions regarding the summer assignment should be emailed to Mr. Sexton at tsexton@bhpsnj.org or Ms. Gilbert at cgilbert@bhpsnj.org no later than June 17, 2009.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

-In nineteenth-century China, in a remote Hunan county, a girl named Lily, at the tender age of seven, is paired with a *laotong*, or "Old same," in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. Two young women, together, reflect upon their arranged marriages, shared loneliness and the joys and tragedies of motherhood.

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

-Gritty, outspoken Taylor Greer, who leaves her native Kentucky to head west, becomes mother to an abandoned baby. She is forced to work in a tire garage and to room with a young, battered divorcee who also has a little girl. With sisterly counsel and personal honesty, the two face their painful lot. The blue-collar setting, described vibrantly, often turns violent, with baby beatings, street brawls, and drug busts. Despite the hurt and rage, themes of love and nurturing emerge.

The Wave by Todd Strasser

-Based on an incident that took place in a high school history class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969. Ben Ross and his history class are about to learn a lesson they will never forget. Is history destined to repeat itself?

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

-On May 19, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay achieved the impossible, becoming the first men to stand on top of Mount Everest. But by May 10, 1996, climbing the 29,000-foot "goddess of the sky" had become a routine; commercial expeditions now littered Everest's flanks. Devastated by a disaster, Krakauer has written this compelling and harrowing account (expanded from his Outside article) as a cathartic act, hoping it "might purge Everest from [his] life."

Forgotten Fire by Adam Bagdasarian

-Up until 1915, Vahan has lived a sheltered life as the son of a wealthy and respected Armenian man. But overnight his world is destroyed when the triumvirate of Turkish leaders, Enver Pasha, Talaat Bey, and Djemal Pasha, begins the systematic massacre of nearly three-quarters of the Armenian population of Turkey, 1.5 million men, women, and children.

The Pact by Jodi Picoult

-In this contemporary tale of love and friendship, Jodi Picoult brings to life a familiar world, and in a single terrifying moment awakens every parent's worse fear: We think we know our children... but do we ever really know them at all?

-Synopsis from <http://www.jodipicoult.com/the-pact.html>

Are We There Yet? by David Levithan

-Tricked by their parents into taking a trip to Italy together, two brothers - - one in high school and the other recently graduated from college – reflect on the directions of their own lives and on the distance that has grown between them.

13 little blue envelopes by Maureen Johnson

-When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.
