

Welcome to J. J. Pearce High School
Freshman Class 2007 – 2008
Pre AP English I

The Language Arts teachers are excited to welcome you to J. J. Pearce High School. We have many fine traditions and a rich environment conducive to learning. We believe that reading is the foundation for all learning and because of this, we encourage you to read this summer. You have quite a list to choose from as you have heard the book talks presented by our librarian. If you are planning to take PreAP English I, our requirement is to read one book from the following list in addition to the ludic reading from the Tayshas Reading List. The PreAP/AP track requires these students to not only read, but to read classics. It is impossible to read all the classics suggested by the College Board during the four years of high school; therefore, we would like to suggest one of the following, and, if you want to read more, we encourage you to do so. The teachers will use these novels as a basis to begin the new school year, so the classic of your choice should be read by the first week of school.

Rebecca, Daphne duMaurier –

“Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again.” So, the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter remembered the chilling events that led her down the turning drive past the beeches, white and naked, to the isolated gray stone manse on the windswept Cornish coast.

With a husband she barely knew, the young bride arrived at this immense estate, only to be inexorably drawn in to the life of the first Mrs. De Winter, the beautiful *Rebecca*, dead but never forgotten...her suite of rooms never touched, her clothes ready to be worn, her servant – the sinister Mrs. Danvers – still loyal.

And as an eerie presentiment of evil tightened around her heart, the second Mrs. De Winter began her search for the real fate of *Rebecca*...for the secrets of Manderley.

The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway – the tragic yet triumphant story of an old Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal – a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

Watership Down, Richard Adams –

a remarkable tale of exile and survival, of heroism and leadership...the epic novel of a group of adventurers who desert their doomed city, and

venture forth against all odds on a quest for a new home, a sturdier future.

The Moon is Down, John Steinbeck – “The flies have conquered the flypaper.”
Without warning the Nazis invaded the town. They seized the Mayor’s home as their headquarters; they rationed the food; they publicly shot the first men who rebelled against their oppression. They were the conquerors. But the hatred was deep in the eyes of the people. Their cold, sullen silence fell like black snow, chilling the soldiers and filling them with fear. And as the conquerors’ nerves wore thin, they shot at black shadows in the night.

Mythology, Edith Hamilton – The gods, the creation and the earliest heroes stories of love and adventure, heroes of the Trojan War, the great families of mythology and the mythology of the Norsemen.

Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury - Bradbury’s classic novel of a world in which books are banned and burned. Bradbury has said that he was trying to “prevent the future,” not predict it.