

Kellam High School English Department

2323 Holland Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23453
757-427-3232 (office)
757-427-6265 (fax)



Karen Johnston
9th Grade Level Chair
Angela Bertram
10th Grade Level Chair
Debbie Jennison
11th Grade Level Chair
Robin Sears
12th Grade Level Chair
Linda Schwartz
Reading Specialist
Angie Evans
Writing Center Coordinator
Kathy Sarosdy
English Department Chair

June 5, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The English Department at Kellam High School envisions summer reading as a means for students to become life-long readers and learners, to develop a love of reading, to draw moral life lessons, to mature as effective independent thinkers, and to gain experience with a variety of texts. Research shows that wide reading fosters the vocabulary, comprehension, analytical, and interpretive skills so necessary for success in high school, college entrance exams, post-secondary education, and the workplace. **If your child is enrolled in Honors English or Dual Enrollment for next year, he or she will be required to read one book this summer,** and is encouraged to read more. Books can be checked out from a local library or can be purchased from a local bookstore (preferred so students can make annotations in their personal copies).

Below are the grade-level required texts. I have included the ISBN number for the preferred edition, though if you have a copy at home, by all means use that! In addition, I have alerted Barnes and Noble at Lynnhaven Mall about the assignment so they will have a good number of copies on hand.

- Honors English 9—Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express*, ISBN-13: 978-0-4252-0045-0
- Honors English 10—Ayn Rand’s *Anthem*, ISBN-0-451-19113-7
- Honors English 11—F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*, ISBN-13: 978-0-7432-7356-5. Students are encouraged to purchase the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., ISBN-13: 978-1-6032-9024-1, for use throughout the school year and beyond. (This edition, just out in April, will remain current for seven years.)
- Honors English 12 and Dual Enrollment—Alan Paton’s *Cry, the Beloved Country*, ISBN-13: 978-0-7432-6217-0

Any student who registers for these courses through the first four weeks of school is responsible for completing the summer reading by a date to be determined by the instructor.

Thank you in advance for helping us to make the most out of your child’s educational experience. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at kathyh.sarosdy@vbschools.com (best way to reach me) or 427-3232, extension 79116.

Sincerely,

Kathy H. Sarosdy
Chair, Department of English