Dear Freshman English Honors students:
Welcome scholars to a challenging, yet rewarding course. Over the summer you will be reading three books and completing two guided reading charts. You will choose your first book from list A. This list is a combination of fiction and memoir. Then, you will read a book that is in the genre of historical fiction. You may choose this book from list B or find one on your own. Finally, you will read *Lord of the Flies*, a classic written by William Golding.

**List A: Choose one, read it, and complete the guided reading chart**

*Armageddon Summer* is a novel written by Jane Yolen and Bruce Covelle about two children of religious fanatics whose reverend believes that the world will end on July 27, 2000 and leads their families in preparing for Armageddon.

*Before I Die* is a novel by Jenny Downham. Tessa, who has terminal cancer, creates a list of ten things she wants to do in the months she has left to live. This novel explores end-of-life realities with honesty and grace.

*Blue Sword* is a fantasy novel written by Robin McKinley about Harry Crewe, who becomes the heir to the Blue Sword that no woman has used since Lady Aerin.

*Born on a Blue Day: A Memoir: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant* is a memoir by Daniel Tammet recounting his long struggle to emotionally connect with others. He describes his childhood and adolescence.

*Call of the Wild* is a novel of survival written by Jack London about a suburban dog who is kidnapped and must struggle for existence against the frozen Alaskan Klondike as he pulls a dog sled.

*Eric* is a memoir written by Doris Lund about her seventeen-year-old son, Eric, who finds out he has Leukemia just before he is to leave for college but is still able to exhibit the will to survive.

*Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers is a book about Richie. He should never have even been in the army, but he ends up in the middle of the Vietnam War.

*Fields of Fire*, a war novel written by Jim Webb, follows the lives of several Marines serving in the Vietnam War.

*Friday Night Lights* is a novel by H.G. Buzz Bissinger that captures the great phenomenon of Friday night lights.

*Izzy, Willy-Nilly* is a novel written by Cynthia Voigt about a beautiful, popular girl who makes a bad choice and must live with the consequences, and in the process, discovers who her real friends are.

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* is a memoir by Ishmael Beah. A former child soldier in Sierra Leone recalls the heart-wrenching experiences that changed him from an innocent 12-year-old into a killer.

*Looking for Alaska* is a book by John Green about Miles “Pudge” Halter’s whole existence has been one big nonevent until he meets the clever, gorgeous, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young.

*The Once and Future King* is a classic by T.H. White which retells the epic of King Arthur and his shining Camelot.

*Speak* is a 1999 novel by Laurie Halse Anderson about a teenager named Melinda Sordino who is raped at a party during summer vacation

*Thirteen Reasons Why* is a novel by Jay Asher. When Clay receives a package of cassette tapes that explain his classmate’s suicide, he is forced to consider how his own actions, and those of others, contributed to her decision.

*This Boy's Life: A Memoir* is by Tobias Wolf about when he was young and was separated from his father and brother after his parents’ divorce. He had to move around constantly and deal with his new hostile stepfather.
List B: Your teachers would like you to read a historical fiction book and complete the guided reading chart on it. The American Heritage Dictionary, Second College Edition, defines "Historical" and "Fiction" in part as follows:

**Historical**, adj. 1. Of, relating to, or of the character of history. 2. Based on or concerned with events in history.

**Fiction**, n. 4.a. A literary work whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact.

Here is a list of suggestions. You may choose to read a book that is not included in this list as long as it is in this genre and at your reading level.

**Africa and the Middle East**
*Friesner, Esther M. Sphinx's Princess*. 2009. Although she is a dutiful daughter, Nefertiti's dancing abilities, remarkable beauty, and intelligence garner attention near and far, so much so that her family is summoned to the Egyptian royal court, where Nefertiti becomes a pawn in the power play of her scheming aunt, Queen Tiye.
*Sayres, Meghan Nuttall. Anahita's Woven Riddle*. 2006. In Iran, more than 100 years ago, a young girl with three suitors gets permission from her father and a holy man to weave into her wedding rug a riddle to be solved by her future husband, which will ensure that he has wit to match hers.

**Asia and the Pacific**
*Bosse, Malcolm. The Examination*. 1994. Fifteen-year-old Hong and his older brother Chen face famine, flood, pirates, and jealous rivals on their journey through fifteenth century China.

**Europe**
*Alexander, Robert. The Kitchen Boy*. 2003. Robert Alexander re-creates the tragic, perennially fascinating story of the final days of Russian monarchs Nicholas and Alexandra as seen through the eyes of the Romanov's young kitchen boy, Leonka.
*Dunlap, Suzanne. Anastasia's Secret*. For Anastasia Romanov, life as the privileged daughter of Russia's last tsar is about to be torn apart by the bloodshed of revolution. A romance blooms between Anastasia and a sympathetic young guard. Will the strength of their love be enough to save Anastasia from a violent death?
*Bradford, Chris. Young Samurai: The Way of the Warrior*. 2009. Orphaned by a ninja pirate attack off the coast of Japan in 1611, twelve-year-old English lad Jack Fletcher is determined to prove himself, despite the bullying of fellow students, when the legendary sword master who rescued him begins training him as a samurai warrior.
*Cadnum, Michael. In a Dark Wood*. 1998. On orders from the King, the Sheriff of Nottingham seeks to capture outlaw Robin Hood, but he finds him to be a tricky and elusive foe.
*Dunlap, Susanne Emily. The Musician's Daughter*. 2009. In eighteenth-century Vienna, Austria, fifteen-year-old Theresa seeks a way to help her mother and brother financially while investigating the murder of her father, a renowned violinist in Haydn's orchestra at the court of Prince Esterhazy, after his body is found near a gypsy camp.
*Hoffman, Alice. Incantation*. 2006. During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic.
*Lester, Julius. Othello: A Novel*. 1995. A prose retelling of Shakespeare's play in which a jealous general is duped into thinking that his wife has been unfaithful, with tragic consequences.
*Libby, Alisa M. The King's Rose*. 2009. Catharine Howard recounts the events in her life that led to her being groomed for marriage at the age of fifteen to King Henry VIII, her failure to produce an heir to the throne, and her quick execution.
Meyer, Carolyn. *The Bad Queen*. 2010. In eighteenth-century France, Marie-Antoinette rails against the rules of etiquette that govern her life even as she tries to fulfill her greatest obligation, giving birth to the next king, but she finds diversion in spending money on clothing, parties, and gambling despite family warnings and the whispers of courtiers.

*Napoli, Donna Jo. The Smile*. 2008. In Renaissance Italy, Elisabetta longs for romance, and when Leonardo da Vinci introduces her to Giuliano de Medici, whose family rules Florence but is about to be deposed, she has no inkling of the romance--and sorrow--that will ensue.

*Dogar, Sharon. Annexed*. Everyone knows about Anne Frank and her life hidden in the secret annex- but what about the boy who was trapped there with her?

**North America:**

*Colonial and Revolutionary Days*

*Anderson, Laurie Halse. Fever, 1793*. 2000. In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is separated from her mother and forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

*Fleishman, Paul. Bull Run*. 1995. The glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War is described in the voices of Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters.

*Butler, Octavia. Kindred*. 1979. A young black woman is abruptly transported through time to save the life of the reckless young son of a plantation owner.


**Nineteenth Century**

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**Twentieth Century**


*Rylant, Cynthia. I Had Seen Castles*. 1993. Now an old man, John is haunted by memories of enlisting to fight in World War II, a decision which forced him to face the horrors of war and changed his life forever.

*Schmidt, Gary D. The Wednesday Wars*. 2007. During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

**Lord of the Flies by William Golding:** Read it and complete the guided reading chart.

Name of Freshman Scholar: ____________________________________

**The Guided Reading Chart for List A book** How a character changes throughout the course of book helps to develop the theme. The first week in Freshman Honors English you will write an essay that addresses this change. To prepare for this you will need to take notes in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Main character's personality traits* at the beginning of the book:</th>
<th>Proof (quotes with page numbers):</th>
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### The Guided Reading Chart for List B Book

Even though Historical Fiction often has an expectation that it will be accurate, some details do not match the historical facts surrounding that person, place or event. Take notes on details you think may be made up or inaccurate as you read your historical fiction book. Use a direct quote or paraphrase and include the page number or percentage (if using an electronic device).

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The Guided Reading Chart for *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding.

William Golding was himself a British school boy who went on to become a British school master. He would have known first-hand about the “naughty” behaviors of the boys he taught. The second week in Freshman Honors English you will write another essay. This one will discuss the human behaviors Golding ridicules in the novel. To prepare for this you will need to take notes in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human behavior shown by the British school boys</th>
<th>Proof from novel–quotes and page numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Ex: Betraying someone's trust</em></td>
<td>&quot;About being called Piggy. I said I didn't care as long as they didn't call me Piggy; an' I said not to tell and then you went an' said straight out.&quot; (Golding 25).</td>
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