

2010 Summer Reading Requirement
Bassick * Central * Harding

All students entering grades 9-12 will be required to read two books (three books if enrolled in Central Magnet) from a list of ten choices. The choices selected represent a range of reading levels, a mix of genres, and demonstrated high interest level for young adults. As you read the novels, take notes using the graphic organizer attached. Copies of the graphic organizer can also be downloaded from the Bridgeport Central Web Site: <http://www.bptcentral.org>.

You will be required to complete an in class book talk where you may use the notes from your graphic organizer the second week of school. These notes and your oral book talk will count as 10% of your first marking period grade.

Requirements: Read 2 books (3 if enrolled in Central Magnet). Take notes on the books read using the graphic organizer. Bring notes to class, as well as this sheet with your parent/guardian signature, to use with in-class book talk assessment.

Date Due: Week of August 23.

Name: _____ Date: _____
2009-2010 English Teacher: _____

My son/daughter has successfully completed the summer reading requirement:

signature)

(relationship to student)

2010 Book Choices (Available on reserve at local branch libraries):

The Black Girl Next Door, by Jennifer Baszile
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamtwamba and Bryan Mealer
Evolution Me & Other Freaks of Nature, by Robin Brande
The Eternal Smile: Three Stories, by Gene Luen Yang and Derek Kirk Kim
Finding Nouf, by oe Ferraris
Gym Candy, by Carl Deuker
Hush Hush, by Becca Fitzpatrick
The Help, by Kathryn Stockett
The Hunger Games, by Susan Collins
Into the Beautiful North: A Novel, by Luis Alberta Urrea
The Sista hood on the Mic, by E-Fierce
You Don't Even Know ME: Stories and Poems about Boys, by Sharon Flake

NOTE: There are additional supplemental titles from the 2006-2009 reading lists that may be read by entering 9th grade students. These titles are on reserve at local branch libraries.

2010 Summer Reading List:

***The Black Girl Next Door* by Jennifer Baszile. 310 pages. \$5.69. Non Fiction. Memoir.**

The Baszile family moves to an exclusive white suburb in Palos Verde, California as the parents strive for a racially integrated, middle-class life. For the daughters, it meant isolation and coping with occasional racial slurs. The parents veered between an aggressive integration strategy and an equally aggressive strategy to keep their daughters socially connected to other black teens. Visits to her father's childhood home in rural Louisiana and her mother's in Detroit showed the stark contrast between their parents' upbringing and their own. Through adolescence, Baszile strove to reconcile her job at Kentucky Fried Chicken and her coming out in the debutante ball and to cope with her family's increasing estrangement and with finding an identity for herself. This is an absorbing look at one black family's striving for the American dream.

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. 288 pages. \$17.15. Non Fiction. Memoir.**

In the inspired hands of William Kamkwamba discarded motor parts, PVC pipe, and an old bicycle wheel become instruments of opportunity. Growing up amid famine and poverty in rural Malawi in Africa, wind was one of the few abundant resources available, and this inventive fourteen-year-old saw its energy as a way to power his dreams. "With a windmill, we'd finally release ourselves from the troubles of darkness and hunger," he realized. "A windmill meant more than just power, it was freedom." Despite village skeptics, William devoted himself to borrowed textbooks and salvage yards in pursuit of a device that could produce an "electric wind." An inspiring story of an indomitable will that refused to bend to doubt or circumstance. While the world seemed to be against him, William Kamkwamba set out to change it.

***Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature* by Robin Brande. 272 pages. \$7.99. Fiction.**

When high school student Mena Reece "blows the whistle" on an organized push to "de-gay" a classmate—she's ostracized by friends, her church and her family. This "freak of nature" becomes embroiled in more controversy when her science teacher begins a unit on evolution. The author handles the controversial topic of evolution intelligently, reconciling religious views with scientific theory. In addressing important social issues, this well-written novel gives readers much to enjoy, think about, and possibly discuss.

***The Eternal Smile: Three Stories* by Gene Luen Yang and Derek Kirk Kim. 176 pages. Graphic novel. \$11.50.**

Yang writes and Kim illustrates in a medley of different styles united by meticulous detail, almost throwaway beauty and riveting storytelling. All three stories deal with levels of fantasy and how humans use it to escape or transcend everyday tedium and suffering. In "Duncan's Kingdom," a fairy tale about a brave youth, a beautiful princess and a dastardly frog king is played out. "The Eternal Smile" offers a sharp satire—far more complex than it first appears—on Gran'pa Greenbax, an avaricious frog full of moneymaking schemes. In "Urgent Request," Janet, a schlumpy drone at a tech company, seemingly answers a Nigerian scam e-mail to liven up her drab life. Kim and Yang test the boundaries between fantasy and reality, exploring the ways that the world of the imagination can affect real life.

***Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris. 320 pages. \$10.00. Fiction.**

This finely detailed mystery set in contemporary Saudi Arabia centers on Nouf ash-Shrawi, a 16-year-old girl who disappeared into the desert three days before her

marriage and has been found dead, several weeks pregnant. Palestinian Nayir al-Sharqi, who works occasionally for the rich Shrawi family, is asked to investigate Nouf's death discreetly. Nayir, a conservative Muslim and an outsider because of his nationality, his class and his large stature, is wary of traversing the wide gulf between Saudi men's and women's worlds, and is encouraged to seek out the help of Katya Hijazi, Othman's fiancée. The novel gets deep inside Nayir's and Katya's very different perspectives, giving a fascinating glimpse into the workings and assumptions of Saudi society. The characters and setting sparkle.

***Gym Candy* by Carl Deuker. 320 pages. \$8.99. Fiction.**

In this cautionary tale, Mick Johnson is a high school football player who constantly strives to live up to his father's athletic example. The pressure leads him to steroids—and the instant gratification of success on the field. Eventually, however, he experiences the consequences of his drug use: rage, paranoia, and alienation from close friends. When his illicit activity is discovered moments before the title game, Mick is forced to face his growing dependency, with potentially deadly consequences. The riveting football scenes in this fast-paced story are guaranteed to hook readers!

***Hush, Hush* by Becca Fitzpatrick. 400 pages. \$9.99. Fiction.**

High school sophomore Nora Grey, a dedicated student striving for a college scholarship, lives with her widowed mother in a country farmhouse outside Portland, ME. When Patch, her new biology partner, is suddenly thrust into her life, Nora is both attracted to his charm and put off by his inexplicable awareness of her thoughts. Eventually, she learns that he is a fallen angel who wants to become human. She is susceptible to his control, but other forces are at work as well, and Nora finds herself caught in the middle of dangerous situations and unexplainable events. The premise of *Hush, Hush*—that fallen angels exist and interact with humans on Earth—is worthy of contemplation.

***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. 464 pages. \$9.50. Fiction.**

This optimistic, uplifting novel is set during the budding civil rights movement in Jackson, Miss., where black women were trusted to raise white children but not to polish the household silver. Eugenia Skeeter Phelan, who is home from college in 1962, wants to become a writer and so follows the advice to write about what disturbs her. With the help of Aibileen, a maid who's raised 17 children, and Aibileen's best friend Minny, who's been unemployed more than a few times after mouthing off to white employers, Skeeter begins to collect the stories of the black women on whom the country club sets relies yet mistrusts. The book compiled based on their stories is scathing and shocking, bringing pride and hope to the black community, and giving Skeeter the courage to break down boundaries and pursue her dreams.

***The Hunger Games* by Susan Collins. 384 pages. \$8.99 Science Fiction.**

In a not-too-distant future, the USA has collapsed, weakened by drought, fire, famine, and war, to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. Part entertainment and part brutal intimidation, the televised games are broadcasted throughout Panem—with all citizens forced to watch--as the 24 participants eliminate their competitors. When 16-year-old Katniss' young sister, Prim, is selected as the mining district's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart, Peeta, the son of the town baker who seems to have limited fighting skills, will be pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for their whole lives. Collin's characters are completely realistic and sympathetic as they form

alliances and friendships in the face of overwhelming odds; the plot is tense, dramatic, and engrossing.

Into the Beautiful North: A Novel by Luis Alberto Urrea. 352. pages. \$10.19.

Nayeli is a young woman in the poor but tight-knit coastal Mexican town of Tres Camarones. Abandoned by her father who headed north for work years before, Nayeli is hit with the realization that her hometown is all but abandoned by men, leaving it at the mercy of drug gangsters. So Nayeli hatches an elaborate scheme: with three friends, she heads north to find seven Mexican men and smuggle them back into Mexico to protect the town. What she discovers along the way, of course, surprises her. Urrea's poetic sensibility and journalistic eye for detail in painting the Mexican landscape and sociological complexities create vivid, memorable scenes. Though the Spanglish can be tough for the uninitiated to detangle, the colorful characters, strong narrative and humor carry this surprisingly uplifting and very human story.

The Sista hood on the Mic by E-Fierce. 224 pages. \$13.30. Fiction.

When Mariposa (aka MC Patria) meets Ezekiel Matthews (aka MC EZ1) they quickly become best friends; together they have the best summer tossing lyrics and rhymes. After the summer ends, Mariposa realizes the only thing she really cares about-- besides becoming the best emcee around--is getting Ezekiel to love her. Unfortunately, this realization comes at the same time Ezekiel gets a girlfriend-- Jennifer Hoffman (aka J-Ho 5), an emcee with a huge buzz. When her school announces a talent show, Mariposa understands that this could be her last chance to impress Ezekiel. She decides to form a hip-hop crew-- enter the world of the Sista Hood. While coming together isn't easy, they're forced to collaborate and their lives are changed forever.

You Don't Even Know Me: Stories and Poems about Boys by Sharon Flake. 208 pages. \$11.50.

In 9 stories and 13 poems, Sharon Flake gives readers insight into the minds of a diverse group of adolescent African American males. There's Tow-Kaye, getting married at age 17 to the love of his life, who's pregnant. He knows it's the right thing to do, but he's scared to death. James writes in his diary about his twin brother's terrible secret, which threatens to pull James down, too. In a letter to his uncle, La'Ron confesses that he's infected with HIV. Eric takes us on a tour of North Philly on the Fourth of July, when the heat could make a guy go crazy. Still, he loves his hood. These and other unforgettable characters come to life in this poignant, funny and often searing collection of urban male voices.

2010 Summer Reading Requirement Notes- Fiction

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title of Book Read: _____

Author: _____

Summarize:

1. Who is the most important character in the story? Why do you think so?

Analyze Plot and Conflict:

1. A summary mentions only the most important points in the work. List some of the key events in the story:

Conflict can occur between two characters, between a character and nature, between a character and society, between a character and fate, or between a character and himself or herself.

2. What is the central, or most important, conflict in the story?

3. How does the main character react to the central conflict?

4. What happens in the climax of the plot? How do the fortunes of the main character change? How is the conflict resolved?

Analyze the Main Idea and Message: The main idea of a work of fiction is the most important idea in it. It is the topic of the story, or what it is about. A story's message is its insight into life. The message is a statement of what the story means.

1. What is the story's implied message? What insights into life does the story offer?

Copy a passage from the book that made you think, or that you found funny, sad, or suspenseful. Include the page number where you found the quote. Explain why you selected the passage from the book. You will present a dramatic reading of the passage selected as part of your book talk the first week of school. (You may use a separate piece of paper).

Significance:

Recognizing the Author's Values and Beliefs:

4. From the details in the book, what can you infer about the background of the writer? Does the author have any biases or use generalizations or stereotypes to support his or her main ideas?.

Copy a passage from the book that you felt was especially well written. It may be that the author's word choices or selection of details are help to convey a specific tone. Explain why you selected the passage from the book. You will present a dramatic reading of the passage selected as part of your book talk the first week of school. (You may use a separate piece of paper).

Significance:
