

## Page High School: English IV Honors – Summer Reading

**All Students:** Read one of the following books as preparation for our unit on the epic poem *Beowulf* and the novel *Grendel*. We will be examining the dynamics of perspective and how it contributes to an understanding of setting, plot, conflict, resolution, and theme. You will be tasked with a writing assignment during the first interim of the fall semester. You will consider how the writer's (or narrator's) perspective presents a dynamic view of the subject matter of the book. You'll reference at least 5 quotes from the book that illustrate your point, and you'll discuss how a different perspective might change the story. You'll work toward designing a visual that depicts the unique lens of the writer/narrator, and you'll participate in a Socratic Seminar about the importance of considering varied perspectives when interpreting literature.

That sounds like a lot to accomplish, but your task is simply to read the book and sign the honor statement before the deadline during the first interim of the semester. You will also need to have a parent/guardian verify that you have completed the reading. As you read, highlight, or transcribe at least 10 important quotes that reveal some nuance about perspective (you'll ultimately trim that list down to 5). The rest of the assignment will be tackled in class. You might find it helpful to annotate the text as you read; doing so will help you recall text and identify important details when writing about or discussing the book.

These three titles are "fun" reads, so pick the one that seems most aligned with your interests: outdoor adventure, crime and mystery, or action and science fiction.

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Science Fiction      ***Timeline***      ***(Medieval suspense and violence, some mature language)***  
By Michael Crichton

In an Arizona desert a man wanders in a daze, speaking words that make no sense. Within twenty-four hours he is dead, his body swiftly cremated by his only known associates. Halfway around the world archaeologists make a shocking discovery at a medieval site. Suddenly they are swept off to the headquarters of a secretive multinational corporation that has developed an astounding technology. Now this group is about to get a chance not to study the past but to enter it. And with history opened to the present, the dead awakened to the living, these men and women will soon find themselves fighting for their very survival—six hundred years ago. . . .

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Fiction:      ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***      ***(Mature themes and adult language)***  
By Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years. A brilliant exploration of point of view and empathy.

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Humor/Memoir      ***A Walk in the Woods***      ***(Some mature language)***  
By Bill Bryson

The Appalachian Trail stretches from Georgia to Maine and covers some of the most breathtaking terrain in America – majestic mountains, silent forests, sparkling lakes. If you're going to take a hike, it's probably the place to go. And Bill Bryson is surely the most entertaining guide you'll find. He introduces us to the history and ecology of the trail and to some of the other hardy (or just foolhardy) folks he meets along the way—and a couple of bears. Already a classic, *A Walk in the Woods* will make you long for the great outdoors (or at least a comfortable chair to sit and read in).

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**My preference would be for you to select one of the books from this list; however, if you would like to read an alternate selection, you must contact me by email and get that title approved. You **MAY NOT** read a book that was assigned for another class or one that you have previously read for leisure or otherwise. My email: [annatheresa.montague@wcs.edu](mailto:annatheresa.montague@wcs.edu) or [christine.morgan@wcs.edu](mailto:christine.morgan@wcs.edu). The purpose of the assignment is to examine perspective, and these three books each accomplish that goal. Any additional book would have to support the same goal.**