

April 2009



English
Department

Dear Member of the Class of 2013,

Welcome to Archbishop Mitty High School! You have been selected as a participant in the **English 1 Accelerated** class for the 2009-2010 school year. As the teacher of this course, I will be working with you starting in August; however until that time, I hope you have a restful summer vacation with plenty of time to enjoy the good weather and some good books. With this in mind, the AMHS English honors program provides you with yearly summer reading assignments. This year the required novels for our class are the following:

Lord of the Flies (Perigee Books; ISBN: 0399501487) by William Golding is a story that describes in detail the horrific exploits of a group of young British schoolchildren who make a striking transition from civilized to barbaric. Set during WWII, this book commands a pessimistic outlook that seems to show that man is inherently tied to society, and without it, we would likely return to savagery.

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier (Avon; ISBN: 0380778556) chronicles the nameless narrator's marriage to Maxim de Winter, a marriage which is overshadowed by the memory of Maxim's first wife, Rebecca who was killed in a mysterious sailing accident. As Maxim's wife learns more about Rebecca, she becomes more intimidated and jealous, until Maxim reveals the intriguing details of the marriage.

Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton (Warner; ISBN: 0446607258) is a superb introduction to mythology. Because this work presents so many characters and mythological tales, students are strongly encouraged to take notes as they read and to study these notes prior to attending class in August. Please note that students are only required to read Parts 1-4 (pp. 24-246) in this collection.

Please closely read all of these books so that you will thoroughly absorb and remember the characters, events, and themes. Active reading includes making summaries of the chapters as you complete them. This type of reading will allow you to better prepare for the reading test and analytical writing you will complete in August and September. (See enclosed handout on summer reading.)

If by chance you have already read any of these books, please reread them so that the details will be fresh in your mind. Also, please be sure to purchase the editions by the listed publishers and with the ISBN numbers noted.

If you have any questions regarding your summer reading, please feel free to contact me by email. Otherwise, I look forward to meeting you and hearing your reactions to the summer reading in August. Enjoy your summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Henderson-Jackson
jhenderson@mitty.com
x4320

Close Reading for Summer Novels

Close reading means reading *actively*—with a pen or pencil in your hand (**not** a highlighter)—and marking your book with as many responses as possible to what you are reading. You should have questions, ideas, and feelings as you read. Here are some guidelines:

1. **Circle** the names of new characters and of unfamiliar words.
2. **Underline** passages or **put an asterisk *** beside passages you think are important in the novel. Next to any underlined or asterisked passages you should write comments. You don't have to do this for all passages you mark.
3. Put a **question mark** beside anything that you do not understand or would like to ask about in class. Passages that confuse you need to be clarified; mark them and then use the teacher to help clarify.
4. When you finish each chapter, go back to the top of the first page and **give the chapter a title. You must do this for each chapter.**
5. Also, when you complete each chapter, use the space at the beginning or end of the chapter to write a **brief summary** of what has happened. Your summary may be a short paragraph or it may be a list of what happened. Do this immediately after you finish the chapter. **You must do this for each chapter.**
6. **No highlighting.**