

May 2009



English
Department

AMHS Students and Parents:

The Archbishop Mitty High School **Summer Reading Program**, administered by the English Department, is pleased to provide you with the summer reading selections for 2009. The intent of the Summer Reading Program is to increase your reading comprehension and broaden your horizons. It is our belief that reading skills and appreciation of literature are developed through regular reading, including summers.

The novels that have been chosen for freshmen are as follows:

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card (Mass Market; ISBN 0812550706)

The Princess Bride by William Goldman (Harvest Books; ISBN 0156035219)

Ender's Game is futuristic novel that explores a twice-attacked Earth by an alien species called Buggers, nearly destroying the human race. Protagonist "Ender" Wiggins, merely a child, must cope with the role he will play within this war-ridden universe. Our other novel is the very entertaining *The Princess Bride*, a classic that has delighted generations of young adults. In author William Goldman's own words, *The Princess Bride* is a story that has everything: "Fencing. Fighting. Torture. Poison. True love. Hate. Revenge. Giants. Hunters. Bad men. Good men. Beautiful ladies. Snakes. Spiders. Beasts of all natures and descriptions. Pain. Death. Brave men. Coward men. Strongest men. Chases. Escapes. Lies. Truths. Passion. Miracles."

PLEASE NOTE: Because you will be tested on the novels within the first full week of instruction and because the books will be incorporated into discussions throughout the year, it is important to read carefully. We require that you do close/active reading for both books, writing chapter summaries and taking notes to review later. To help you close read, please carefully read over the "Close Reading for Summer Novels." All work associated with these novels, including scores from the summer reading exams, will be a portion of your grade in English.

These books may be found at a local bookstore or on the Internet. Please be sure to purchase the editions by the publishers above with the ISBN numbers noted.

We look forward to seeing you in August.

Sincerely,

AMHS Freshman English Teachers

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.**