

**Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
Grade 7**

REQUIRED: Students should read one, age-appropriate contemporary realistic fiction book of their choice. The summer letter will provide directions about the follow-up project which will be completed during the first week of school.

Author	<i>Suggested Title</i>
Bauer, Joan	<p><i>Squashed</i></p> <p>Humor, agriculture and young love all come together in Joan Bauer's first novel, set in rural Iowa. Sixteen-year-old Ellie Morgan's life would be almost perfect if she could just get her potentially prize-winning pumpkin to put on about 200 more pounds--and if she could take off 20 herself... in hopes of attracting Wes, the new boy in town.</p>
Boyne, John	<p><i>Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i></p> <p>Berlin, 1942. When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different than his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.</p>
Brashares, Ann	<p><i>Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Series</i></p> <p>Lena, Carmen, Bridget, and Tibby have been through a lot together. But even after traveling across the world to keep these four very different friends connected, the pants remain strong, uncuffed—and remarkably flattering. Relive the magic of the pants with these four novels of strength, heartbreak, love, family, and friendship.</p>
Carbone, Elisa	<p><i>Blood on the River</i></p> <p>Samuel Collier comes to the New World as Captain John Smith's page. His experiences in the founding of Jamestown and the evolving relationship with the Algonquin tribes make for a fascinating book with many details culled from first-hand accounts.</p>
Colfer, Eoin	<p><i>Artemis Fowl Series</i></p> <p>Fantastic stuff from beginning to end, <i>Artemis Fowl</i> is a rip-roaring, 21st-century romp of the highest order. The author has let his imagination run riot by combining folklore, fantasy, and a fistful of high-tech funk in an outrageously devilish book that would well do for fairies what Harry Potter has done for wizardry. But be warned: this is no gentle frolic, so don't be fooled by the fairy subject matter. Instead, what we have here is well-written, sophisticated, rough 'n' tumble storytelling with enough high-octane attitude to make it a seriously cool read for anyone over the age of 10.</p>
Cummings, Priscilla	<p><i>Red Kayak</i></p> <p>Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen year-old Brady and</p>

	his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.
Horowitz, Anthony	<p><i>Alex Rider Series</i></p> <p>Alex Rider is not a "typical" teenager. Following the untimely death of his beloved uncle, Alex is recruited by Britain's top-secret intelligence agency to investigate some of the most high profile and dangerous men in the world. Alex is quite reluctant to take on such a huge responsibility, and who can blame him? He's only 14 years old and he has his entire life ahead of him; more importantly, he needs time to mourn his tragic loss. Ultimately though, Alex chooses to accept his mission and help rid the world of evil.</p> <p><i>Taken from http://www.kidsreads.com/series/series-alex_rider.asp</i></p>
Martin, Ann M.	<p><i>A Corner of the Universe</i></p> <p>The summer Hattie turns 12 her predictable small-town life is turned on end when her uncle Adam returns home for the first time in over ten years. Hattie has never met him, never known about him. He's been institutionalized; his condition involves schizophrenia and autism. Hattie, a shy girl who prefers the company of adults, takes immediately to her excitable uncle, even when the rest of the family -- her parents and grandparents -- have trouble dealing with his intense way of seeing the world. And Adam, too, sees that Hattie is special, that her quiet, shy ways are not a disability.</p>
Olson, Gretchen	<p><i>Call Me Hope</i></p> <p>As 11-year-old Hope struggles to live under the pressures of her verbally abusive mother, she's tempted to run away but instead chooses resilience. She creates a secret safe haven and an innovative point system (giving herself points for every bad thing her mother says to her); finds comfort and inspiration from <i>Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl</i>; and gains a support team. Ultimately, Hope is able to confront her mother about her hurtful words and to help her begin to change. This is an engaging, satisfying novel, about an important and not widely-understood issue, that will touch and inspire readers.</p>
Philbrick, Rod	<p><i>Freak the Mighty</i></p> <p>A wonderful story of triumph over imperfection, shame, and loss. Large, awkward, learning-disabled Maxwell Kane, whose father is in prison for murdering his mother, and crippled, undersized Kevin are both mocked by their peers; the cruel taunting they endure is all too realistic and believable. The boys establish a friendship and a partnership. Kevin defends them with his intelligence, while Max is his friend's "legs," affording him a chance to participate in the larger world. Inspired by tales of King Arthur, they become knights fighting for good and true causes. But Kevin's illness progresses, and when he dies, Max is left with the memories of an extraordinary relationship and, perhaps, the insight to think positively about himself and his future.</p>

*** All book descriptions are taken from Amazon.com or a local library web site.

Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
Grade 8

REQUIRED: Students should read age and interest appropriate books of their choice. Multiple genres are recommended. The summer letter will provide directions for the writing assignment which will be due the first day of school.

Author	<i>Suggested Title</i>
Collins, Suzanne	<p data-bbox="440 394 675 426"><i>The Hunger Games</i></p> <p data-bbox="440 468 1433 709">Katniss is a 16-year-old girl living with her mother and younger sister in the poorest district of Panem, the remains of what used be the United States. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games." The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed. When Kat's sister is chosen by lottery, Kat steps up to go in her place.</p>
Flanagan, John	<p data-bbox="440 716 768 747"><i>Ranger's Apprentice Series</i></p> <p data-bbox="440 789 1373 856">Set in the mythical land of Araluen, the series follows the adventures of Will, a small and lively 15 year old boy living in medieval Castle Redmont.</p> <p data-bbox="440 898 1417 999">Rejected for training as a warrior-knight, Will is apprenticed instead to the Ranger Corps – a mysterious group who act as the King's eyes and ears throughout Araluen and beyond its shores.</p> <p data-bbox="440 1041 1414 1178">As an Apprentice Ranger, Will is trained to be an expert archer and knife thrower, as well as a warrior who learns the art of silent, unseen movement, tracking and concealment. Gradually, a bond develops between the garrulous, inquisitive Will and his grim-faced mentor, Halt – renowned as one of the greatest of all Rangers.</p> <p data-bbox="440 1220 1162 1251">Description taken from http://www.rangersapprentice.com/</p>
Hiaasen, Carl	<p data-bbox="440 1255 496 1287"><i>Scat</i></p> <p data-bbox="440 1329 1425 1503">Mrs. Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, was last seen during a field trip to Black Vine Swamp. The school's headmaster and the police seem to have accepted the sketchy, unsigned note explaining that her absence is due to a "family emergency." There's no real evidence of foul play. But still, Nick and Marta don't buy it. Something weird is definitely going on.</p>
McAulay, Alex	<p data-bbox="440 1503 613 1535"><i>Oblivion Road</i></p> <p data-bbox="440 1577 1417 1755">Courtney Stanton thinks she's on just another ski trip with her friends -- until a horrific car accident strands them all on an isolated Colorado road during a blizzard. Frightened but alive, Courtney and her companions discover an abandoned vehicle nearby, and seek help. But the vehicle turns out to be a prison van, with the inmates missing, and the guard's dead body in the front seat.</p> <p data-bbox="440 1797 1433 1967">Soon after, a stumbling figure emerges from the snow, a handcuffed refugee from the van. He says he's been in prison for selling meth, but that he once served in the army. Dare they trust him? He pleads innocence about the guard's murder, warns them about the other fugitives, and promises he will help guide them out of the wilderness. But as the group begins a nightmare trek across the frozen landscape,</p>

	they start to get the feeling he hasn't told them the entire truth, and someone -- or something -- is secretly watching their every move.
Scott, Michael	<i>The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel</i> When 15-year-old twins Josh and Sophie inadvertently become involved in a plot to steal the <i>Codex</i> from their friend Nick Fleming (aka Nicholas Flamel), they are propelled into a fantasy world of golems, wereboars, and many other creatures that inhabit the netherworld between good and evil. Also known as the <i>Book of Abraham the Mage</i> , the <i>Codex</i> contains the secret formula for eternal youth, but that's just one of the book's wild powers that fuel the twins' adventures.
Wittlinger, Ellen	<i>Blind Faith</i> Fifteen-year-old Elizabeth has always envied the bond that her distracted, artistic mother shared with Elizabeth's grandmother, Bunny, and wonders, "How come I wasn't part of this chain of mother-daughter best friends too?" Then Bunny dies, and Elizabeth feels even more shut out as her mother sinks into a consuming grief. Only visits to a nearby spiritualist church, where members claim to channel the dead, seem to cheer Liz's mom, but the church brings increasing friction with Liz's atheist dad. A fragile romance with Nathan, her new 16-year-old neighbor, helps Liz begin to talk about her complicated feelings.
Zevin, Gabrielle	<i>Elsewhere</i> Welcome to Elsewhere. It is warm, with a breeze, and the beaches are marvelous. It's quiet and peaceful. You can't get sick or any older. Curious to see new paintings by Picasso? Swing by one of Elsewhere's museums. Need to talk to someone about your problems? Stop by Marilyn Monroe's psychiatric practice. Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get her driver's license. She wants to graduate from high school and go to college. And now that she's dead, Liz is being forced to live a life she doesn't want with a grandmother she has only just met. And it is not going well. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward? This moving, often funny book about grief, death, and loss will stay with the reader long after the last page is turned.

*** All book descriptions are taken from Amazon.com or a local library web site.

**Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
English I**

All suggested titles below connect in some way to the first unit of study – “Freedom and Power”. Choose a book from the list or another of your choice that relates to this unit.

Author	Suggested Title
<p>Avi</p>	<p><i>Nothing But the Truth</i></p> <p>Patriotism or practical joke? Ninth-grade student Philip Malloy was suspended from school for singing along to <i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i> in his homeroom, causing what his teacher, Margaret Narwin, called "a disturbance." But was he standing up for his patriotic ideals, only to be squelched by the school system? Was Ms. Narwin simply trying to be a good teacher? Or could it all be just a misunderstanding gone bad -- very bad? What is the truth here? Can it ever be known?</p> <p>Heroism, hoax, or mistake, what happened at Harrison High changes everything for everyone in ways no one -- least of all Philip -- could have ever predicted.</p>
<p>Fusco, Kimberly</p>	<p><i>Tending to Grace</i></p> <p>Lenore is Cornelia's mother—and Cornelia's fix-up project. What does it matter that Cornelia won't talk to anyone and is always stuck in the easiest English class at school, even though she's read more books than anyone else? She feels strong in the fixing. She cooks vegetable soup so Lenore will eat something other than Ring Dings; she lures her out of bed with strong coffee and waffles. She looks after the house when Lenore won't get out of bed at all.</p> <p>So when Lenore and her boyfriend take off for Vegas leaving Cornelia behind with eccentric Aunt Agatha, all Cornelia can do is wait for her to come back. Aunt Agatha sure doesn't want any fixing.</p> <p>Maybe this time it's Cornelia who could use it?</p>
<p>Gantos, Jack</p>	<p><i>Hole in My Life</i></p> <p>Jack Gantos' riveting memoir of the 15 months he spent as a young man in federal prison for drug smuggling is more than a harrowing, scared-straight confession: it is a beautifully realized story about the making of a writer. As Gantos himself notes: "It [prison] is where I went from thinking about becoming a writer, to writing." His examination of the process--including his unsparing portrayal of his fears, failings, and false starts--is brilliant and breathtaking in its candor and authenticity. Particularly fascinating is his generous use of literary allusions to everything from Baudelaire to Billy Budd, which subtly yet richly dramatize how he evolved from a reader who became a character in the books he was reading to a writer and a character in his own life story. Gantos' spare narrative style and straightforward revelation of the truth have, together, a cumulative power that will capture not only a reader's attention but also empathy and imagination. This is great for every aspiring writer and also a wonderful biography for teens struggling to discover their deepest, truest selves.</p>
<p>Hautman, Peter</p>	<p><i>Rash</i></p> <p>It's late in the twenty-first century, and the United Safer States of America (USSA) has become a nation obsessed with safety. For Bo Marsten, a teenager who grew up in the USSA, it's all good. He knows the harsh laws were created to protect the people. But when Bo's temper flares out of control and he's sentenced to three years of manual labor, he's not so down with the law</p>

	<p>anymore.</p> <p>Bo's forced to live and work in a factory in the Canadian tundra. The warden running the place is totally out of his mind, and cares little for his inmates' safety. Bo will have to decide what's worse: a society that locks people up for road rage, or a prison where the wrong move could make you polar bear food.</p>
Martel, Yann	<p><i>Life of Pi</i></p> <p>The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes.</p> <p>The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi, whose fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days while lost at sea. When they finally reach the coast of Mexico, Richard Parker flees to the jungle, never to be seen again. The Japanese authorities who interrogate Pi refuse to believe his story and press him to tell them "the truth." After hours of coercion, Pi tells a second story, a story much less fantastical, much more conventional--but is it more true?</p>
Strasser, Todd	<p><i>The Wave</i></p> <p><i>The Wave</i> is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969.</p> <p>The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action", sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.</p>
Swarthout, Glendon	<p><i>Bless the Beasts and Children</i></p> <p>"Send Us a Boy -- We'll Send You a Cowboy!" is the slogan of the Box Canyon Boys Camp. But for the nail biters, thumb suckers, and teeth grinders -- the cast-away offspring of parents who are busy travelling, being divorced, remarrying, and garnering fortunes -- it's just another place to face rejection. Until Cotton.</p> <p>Cotton pulls them together. In a hot-wired pickup, he leads "the Bedwetters" on a fantastic mission to save a herd of buffalo -- and in the process, to save themselves. But as the raw red Arizona sun rises, they will discover the cost of their one grand moment of glory...</p>
Yang, Gene Luen	<p><i>American Born Chinese</i></p> <p>Indie graphic novelist Gene Yang's intelligent and emotionally challenging <i>American Born Chinese</i> is made up of three individual plotlines: the determined efforts of the Chinese folk hero Monkey King to shed his humble roots and be revered as a god; the struggles faced by Jin Wang, a lonely Asian American middle school student who would do anything to fit in with his white classmates; and the sitcom plight of Danny, an All-American teen so shamed by his Chinese</p>

	cousin Chin-Kee (a purposefully painful ethnic stereotype) that he is forced to change schools. Each story works well on its own, but Yang engineers a clever convergence of these parallel tales into a powerful climax that destroys the hateful stereotype of Chin-Kee, while leaving both Jin Wang and the Monkey King satisfied and happy to be who they are.
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**Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
English II**

All suggested titles below connect in some way to the first unit of study – “*Loss of Innocence*”. Choose a book from the list or another of your choice that relates to this unit.

Author	Suggested Title
Brooks, Geraldine	<p><i>March</i></p> <p>From Louisa May Alcott’s beloved classic <i>Little Women</i>, Geraldine Brooks has animated the character of the absent father, March, and crafted a story "filled with the ache of love and marriage and with the power of war upon the mind and heart of one unforgettable man" (Sue Monk Kidd). With "pitch-perfect writing" (<i>USA Today</i>), Brooks follows March as he leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs.</p>
Coman, Carolyn	<p><i>Many Stones</i></p> <p>Berry Morgan's older sister Laura was the one who got along best with their father, even after he moved out. Their interest in world events and action kept Berry on the outside. After college, Laura decided to work as a school volunteer in Capetown, South Africa-and, in a nightmare straight from the headlines, was brutally murdered. A year and a half later, Mr. Morgan arranges a trip to South Africa, so they can attend Laura's memorial service. It is a trip that, if they let it, will transform the two of them, and may break the long silence of grief so that Berry and her father can finally begin to talk with each other.</p> <p><i>2001 Michael L. Printz Honor Book</i></p>
Johnson, Angela	<p><i>The First Part Last</i></p> <p>Bobby's a classic urban teenager. He's restless. He's impulsive. But the thing that makes him different is this: He's going to be a father. His girlfriend, Nia, is pregnant, and their lives are about to change forever. Instead of spending time with friends, they'll be spending time with doctors, and next, diapers. They have options: keeping the baby, adoption. They want to do the right thing.</p> <p><i>2004 Michael L. Printz Award Winner</i></p>
McDonald, Joyce	<p><i>Swallowing Stones</i></p>

	<p>It begins with a free and joyful act--but from then on, Michael finds it impossible even to remember what it felt like to be free and joyful. When he fires his new rifle into the air on his seventeenth birthday, he never imagines that the bullet will end up killing someone. But a mile away, a man <i>is</i> killed by that bullet as he innocently repairs his roof. And Michael keeps desperately silent while he watches his world crumble.</p> <p>Meanwhile Jenna, the dead man's daughter, copes with desperation of her own. Through her grief, she tries to understand why she no longer feels comfortable with her boyfriend and why a near stranger named Michael keeps appearing in her dreams.</p> <p>Suspenseful and powerfully moving, this is the unforgettable story of an accidental crime and its haunting web of repercussions.</p>
<p>Na, An</p>	<p><i>A Step From Heaven</i></p> <p>When she is five, Young Ju Park and her family move from Korea to California. During the flight, they climb so far into the sky she concludes they are on their way to Heaven, that Heaven must be in America. Heaven is also where her grandfather is. When she learns the distinction, she is so disappointed she wants to go home to her grandmother. Trying to console his niece, Uncle Tim suggests that maybe America can be "a step from Heaven." Life in America, however, presents problems for Young Ju's family. Her father becomes depressed, angry, and violent. Jobs are scarce and money is even scarcer. When her brother is born, Young Ju experiences firsthand her father's sexism as he confers favored status upon the boy who will continue to carry the Park name. In a wrenching climactic scene, her father beats her mother so severely that Young Ju calls the police. Soon afterward, her father goes away and the family begins to heal.</p> <p><i>2002 Michael L. Printz Award Winner</i></p>
<p>Sofer, Dalia</p>	<p><i>The Septembers of Shiraz</i></p> <p>In the aftermath of the Iranian revolution, rare-gem dealer Isaac Amin is arrested, wrongly accused of being a spy. Terrified by his disappearance, his family must reconcile a new world of cruelty and chaos with the collapse of everything they have known. As Isaac navigates the terrors of prison, and his wife feverishly searches for him, his children struggle with the realization that their family may soon be forced to embark on a journey of incalculable danger.</p>

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**Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
Honors English III**

The required title below connects in some way to the first unit of study – “*Myth of the American Dream*”.

Author	Suggested Title
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<p>Hurston, Zora Neale</p>	<p><i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i></p> <p>One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>, is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published -- perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature.</p>
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Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
English III

All suggested titles below connect in some way to the first unit of study – “*Myth of the American Dream*”. Choose a book from the list or another of your choice that relates to this unit.

<p>Author</p>	<p><i>Suggested Title</i></p>
<p>Mason, Bobby-Ann</p>	<p><i>In Country</i></p> <p>Sam Hughes, whose father was killed in Vietnam, lives in rural Kentucky with her uncle Emmett, a veteran whom she suspects is suffering from exposure to Agent Orange. Sam is a typical teenager, trying to choose a college, anticipating a new job at the local Burger Boy, sharing intimacies with her friend Dawn, breaking up with her high school boyfriend, and dealing with her feelings for Tom, one of Emmett's buddies. Sam feels that her life is bound to the war in Vietnam and becomes obsessed with the idea because of the reluctance of her family and Tom to talk about it. Her father's diary finally provides the insight she seeks, insight she cannot accept until she has visited the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.</p>
<p>McBride, James</p>	<p><i>The Color of Water</i></p> <p>When James McBride asked his mother, Ruth, what color God was, she told him He was 'the color of water'. Growing up black in Brooklyn, James wondered at his mother's light skin, and only later learned she had been born Rachel Shilsky, an Orthodox Jew. After her family fled from Poland during the war to settle in Virginia, she escaped her abusive father to live in Harlem, where she married a black man. She changed her name, founded a Baptist church with her husband and put 12 high-flying children through college. This double autobiography tells the story of Ruth and her son, each reflecting the experience of the other as they grow up in a world where racial categories threaten to overcome personal identities.</p>
<p>Myers, Walter Dean</p>	<p><i>Monster</i></p> <p>"Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? In this innovative novel by Walter Dean Myers,</p>

	<p>the reader becomes both juror and witness during the trial of Steve's life. To calm his nerves as he sits in the courtroom, aspiring filmmaker Steve chronicles the proceedings in movie script format. Interspersed throughout his screenplay are journal writings that provide insight into Steve's life before the murder and his feelings about being held in prison during the trial. "They take away your shoelaces and your belt so you can't kill yourself no matter how bad it is. I guess making you live is part of the punishment."</p> <p><i>2000 Michael L. Printz Award Winner</i> <i>Coretta Scott King Award</i> <i>National Book Award Finalist</i></p>
Palwick, Susan	<p><i>The Necessary Beggar</i></p> <p>Lémabantunk, the Glorious City, is a place of peace and plenty, of festivals and flowers, bejeweled streets and glittering waterfalls. But it is also a land of severe justice. Darroti, a young merchant, has been accused of an unforgivable crime – the brutal murder of a highborn woman. Now, in keeping with the customs of their world, his entire family must share in his punishment – exile to the unknown world that lies beyond a mysterious gate.</p> <p><i>2006 Alex Award Winner</i></p>

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**Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
Honors English IV**

The required title below connects in some way to the first unit of study – “*Loss of Humanity*”.

Author	<i>Suggested Title</i>
Kingsolver, Barbara	<p><i>Poisonwood Bible</i></p> <p>The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it -- from garden seeds to Scripture -- is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.</p>

**Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
Grade 12 AP Literature**

Author	<i>Title</i>
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Kingsolver, Barbara	<p><i>Poisonwood Bible</i></p> <p>The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it -- from garden seeds to Scripture -- is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.</p>
Foster, Thomas C.	<p><i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i></p> <p>What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface -- a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character -- and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.</p> <p>In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, <i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.</p>

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**Litchfield Public Schools
2010 Summer Reading List
English IV**

All suggested titles below connect in some way to the first unit of study – “*Loss of Humanity*”. Choose a book from the list or another of your choice that relates to this unit.

Author	<i>Suggested Title</i>
Doctorow, E.L.	<p><i>The March</i></p> <p>In 1864, Union general William Tecumseh Sherman marched his sixty thousand troops through Georgia to the sea, and then up into the Carolinas. The army fought off Confederate forces, demolished cities, and accumulated a borne-along population of freed blacks and white refugees until all that remained was the dangerous transient life of the dispossessed and the triumphant. In E. L. Doctorow’s hands the great march becomes a floating world, a nomadic consciousness, and an unforgettable reading experience with awesome relevance to our own times.</p> <p><i>2005 National Book Critics Circle Award Winner</i> <i>2006 Pen / Faulkner Award Winner</i></p>
Farmer, Nancy	<p><i>The House of the Scorpion</i></p> <p>Fields of white opium poppies stretch away over the hills, and uniformed workers</p>

	<p>bend over the rows, harvesting the juice. This is the empire of Matteo Alacran, a feudal drug lord in the country of Opium, which lies between the United States and Aztlan, formerly Mexico. Field work or any menial tasks are done by "eejits," humans in whose brains computer chips have been installed to insure docility. Alacran, or El Patron, has lived 140 years with the help of transplants from a series of clones, a common practice among rich men in this world. The intelligence of clones is usually destroyed at birth, but Matt, the latest of Alacran's doubles, has been spared because he belongs to El Patron. He grows up in the family's mansion, alternately caged and despised as an animal and pampered and educated as El Patron's favorite. Gradually he realizes the fate that is in store for him, and with the help of Tam Lin, his bluff and kind Scottish bodyguard, he escapes to Aztlan. There he and other "lost children" are trapped in a more subtle kind of slavery before Matt can return to Opium to take his rightful place and transform his country.</p> <p><i>2003 Michael L. Printz Honor Award Winner</i> <i>2002 National Book Award Winner</i> <i>2002 Newbery Honor Book Award Winner</i></p>
McCarthy, Cormac	<p><i>The Road</i></p> <p>A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls, it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food, and each other.</p> <p><i>2007 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction</i></p>
Myers, Walter Dean	<p><i>Fallen Angels</i></p> <p>A coming-of-age tale for young adults set in the trenches of the Vietnam War in the late 1960's, this is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service when his dream of attending college falls through. Sent to the front lines, Perry and his platoon come face-to-face with the Vietcong and the real horror of warfare. But violence and death aren't the only hardships. As Perry struggles to find virtue in himself and his comrades, he questions why black troops are given the most dangerous assignments, and why the U.S. is even there at all.</p> <p><i>1989 Coretta Scott King Award Winner</i></p>
Nelson, Pete	<p><i>Left for Dead</i></p> <p>It's an unlikely beginning to what became a momentous, history-changing history fair project. Eleven-year-old Hunter Scott was watching <i>Jaws</i> one day when he first heard about the World War II sinking of the USS Indianapolis. Intrigued, he investigated further, and discovered a shocking, heartbreaking story behind what should have been a tale of heroism and patriotism. Torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, the Indianapolis went down in minutes, taking more than 800 sailors with it. Several hundred survived, but only after spending days in the open sea with sharks diminishing their numbers hourly. This is only the beginning of the tragedy, however. In an effort to make an example of the ship's captain, and in order to deflect blame from itself, the U.S. Navy unfairly court-martialed the captain, painfully changing the lives of all the men involved.</p>
Remarque, Erick	<p><i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i></p>

Maria	<p>"All Quiet on the Western Front" is probably the most famous anti-war novel ever written. The story is told by a young 'unknown soldier' in the trenches of Flanders during the First World War. Through his eyes we see all the realities of war; under fire, on patrol, waiting in the trenches, at home on leave, and in hospitals and dressing stations. Although there are vividly described incidents which remain in mind, there is no sense of adventure here, only the feeling of youth betrayed and a deceptively simple indictment of war - of any war - told for a whole generation of victims.</p>
Rosoff, Meg	<p><i>how i live now</i></p> <p><i>"Every war has turning points and every person too."</i></p> <p>Fifteen-year-old Daisy is sent from Manhattan to England to visit her aunt and cousins she's never met: three boys near her age, and their little sister. Her aunt goes away on business soon after Daisy arrives. The next day bombs go off as London is attacked and occupied by an unnamed enemy.</p> <p>As power fails, and systems fail, the farm becomes more isolated. Despite the war, it's a kind of Eden, with no adults in charge and no rules, a place where Daisy's uncanny bond with her cousins grows into something rare and extraordinary. But the war is everywhere, and Daisy and her cousins must lead each other into a world that is unknown in the scariest, most elemental way.</p> <p><i>2005 Michael L. Printz Award Winner</i></p>

*** All book descriptions are taken from Amazon.com or a local library web site.

**Litchfield Public Schools
2009 Summer Reading List
Grade 11 AP Language**

Read a memoir of your own choosing. Some suggested titles are listed below, but consider other authors' works which may interest you as well and complete the writing assignments as outlined in the summer letter. In the fall you will be asked to complete a task based on the book you read.

Author	Suggested Title
Angelou, Maya	<p><i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i></p> <p>Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns about love for herself and the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.</p>
Baker, Russell	<i>Growing Up</i>

	<p>This is Russell Baker's story of growing up in America between the world wars--in the backwoods mountains of Virginia, in a New Jersey commuter town, and finally in the Depression-shadowed urban landscape of Baltimore.</p>
Dillard, Annie	<p><i>An American Childhood</i></p> <p>Dillard's account of her childhood until her entrance into Hollins College is delightful, fast-paced, and full of action. Written in three parts, with a prologue about her father's brief sea venture when she was eight and an epilogue about her own children, the book reads like a play: there is excellent character development, and the vivid descriptions make the reader almost a witness to the events. Dillard fans will especially appreciate the insight she offers into her early consciousness and development, while others will enjoy this picture of growing up in the 1950s or simply the humor and sensitivity of the writing.</p>
Hellman, Lillian	<p><i>Pentimento</i></p> <p>In this widely praised follow-up to her National Book Award--winning first volume of memoirs, <i>An Unfinished Woman</i>, the legendary playwright Lillian Hellman looks back at some of the people who, wittingly or unwittingly, exerted profound influence on her development as a woman and a writer. The portraits include Hellman's recollection of a lifelong friendship that began in childhood, reminiscences that formed the basis of the Academy Award winning film <i>Julia</i>.</p>
Kazin, Alfred	<p><i>A Walker in the City</i></p> <p>In <i>A Walker in the City</i>, Alfred Kazin recalls his childhood in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn with such tactile specificity that readers, too, will smell "that good and deep odor of lox, of salami, of herrings and half-sour pickles" that emanated from the neighborhood pushcarts. His story is set in the working-class Jewish community of New York City in the decade preceding the Great Depression, but this classic memoir of the first-generation American experience resonates universally. Kazin depicts his younger self as a smart, unhappy kid who dreamed of escape from a confining local landscape. He found in books the road map to a freer territory. In Kazin's case, this was "the city" ("everything just out of Brownsville") whose glamorous institutions--the New York Public Library, the Metropolitan Museum, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden--spoke of an American past and an intellectual community that this son of eastern European immigrants was determined to make his own. (And he did, with his pioneering 1942 critical work, <i>On Native Grounds</i>, published when he was just 27.) Yet Kazin came to understand that the roots he had been so anxious to tear up were the source of his deepest identity. His loving portrait of his past acknowledges the crucial importance of belonging, even as it affirms the compelling necessity of escape. What could be more American?</p>
Mathabane, Mark	<p><i>Kaffir Boy</i></p> <p>In this powerful account of growing up black in South Africa, a young writer makes us feel intensely the horrors of apartheid. Living illegally in a shanty outside Johannesburg, Johannes (renamed Mark) Mathabane and his illiterate family endured the heartbreak and hopelessness of poverty and the violence of sadistic police and marauding gangs. He describes his drunken father's attempts to inculcate his tribal beliefs and to prevent his son from getting an education - the one means by which he might escape from the ghetto. Encouraged by his determined mother and grandmother, Mathabane taught himself to read English and play tennis, and, through the assistance of U.S. tennis star Stan Smith and his own efforts and intelligence, obtained a tennis scholarship from a South Carolina college in 1978. Now he is a freelance writer in New York. In the course of relating his inspiring</p>

	<p>story, he explains the anger and hate that his country's blacks feel toward white people and the inevitability of their rebellion against the Afrikaner government.</p>
<p>Rodriguez, Richard</p>	<p><i>Hunger of Memory</i></p> <p>Hunger of Memory is the story of Mexican-American Richard Rodriguez, who begins his schooling in Sacramento, California, knowing just 50 words of English, and concludes his university studies in the stately quiet of the reading room of the British Museum.</p> <p>Here is the poignant journey of a minority student who pays the cost of his social assimilation and academic success with a painful alienation from his past, his parents, his culture and so describes the high price of making it in middle-class America.</p> <p>Provocative in its positions on affirmative action and bilingual education, Hunger of Memory is a powerful political statement, a profound study of the importance of language ... and the moving, intimate portrait of a boy struggling to become a man.</p>
<p>Walls, Jeanette</p>	<p><i>Glass Castle</i></p> <p>Walls, who spent years trying to hide her childhood experiences, allows the story to spill out in this remarkable recollection of growing up. From her current perspective as a contributor to MSNBC online, she remembers the poverty, hunger, jokes, and bullying she and her siblings endured, and she looks back at her parents: her flighty, self-indulgent mother, a Pollyanna unwilling to assume the responsibilities of parenting, and her father, troubled, brilliant Rex, whose ability to turn his family's downward-spiraling circumstances into adventures allowed his children to excuse his imperfections until they grew old enough to understand what he had done to them and to himself. His grand plans to build a home for the family never evolved: the hole for the foundation of the "The Glass Castle," as the dream house was called became the family garbage dump, and, of course, a metaphor for Rex Walls' life. Shocking, sad, and occasionally bitter, this gracefully written account speaks candidly, yet with surprising affection, about parents and about the strength of family ties for both good and ill.</p>
<p>Welty, Eudora</p>	<p><i>One Writer's Beginnings</i></p> <p>Among the most beloved of American writers, Eudora Welty's stories and novels have entertained us for over half a century. Here, in her memoirs, she writes with her usual candor and grace about how a writer's sensibilities are shaped. As compelling as her stories, as witty as her personality, as finely honed as her fiction, Welty's account of her life is a powerful and fulfilling read.</p>
<p>Wolff, Tobias</p>	<p><i>This Boy's Life</i></p> <p>Fiction writer Tobias Wolff electrified critics with his scarifying 1989 memoir, which many deemed as notable for its artful structure and finely wrought prose as for the events it describes. The story is pretty grim: Teenaged Wolff moves with his divorced mother from Florida to Utah to Washington State to escape her violent boyfriend. When she remarries, Wolff finds himself in a bitter battle of wills with his abusive stepfather, a contest in which the two prove to be more evenly matched than might have been supposed. Deception, disguise, and illusion are the weapons the young man learns to employ as he grows up--not bad training for a writer-to-be. Somber though this tale of family strife is, it is also darkly funny and so artistically satisfying that most readers come away exhilarated rather than depressed.</p>

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