

June 1, 2010

Dear Freshman Honors Student,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Tolland High School and to the English Honors Program. As you know, this is a special program for students who have shown both an interest and ability in English, students who enjoy independent reading.

A requirement of the Tolland Honors Program is summer reading. I am confident that you will find this reading both interesting and challenging.

You will be taking a “reading check” test on these works at the beginning of the semester. [Both first and second semester students will review the works in class before any test or writing assignment is given.] However, regardless of your assigned semester, you should take notes as you read, recording your thoughts about the work and any other information that will help you recall the reading. Be prepared to ask and answer questions about the reading when you get to class.

You should have completed **all** the reading by the first day of class.

Please allow enough time during the summer to read the following:

***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles**

Set at a boys’ boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is the story of the sometimes dark side of friendship and adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

***Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands* by Susan Carol McCarthy**

One orange-blossom-scented night in 1951, Reesa McMahon woke to find her world shattered by violence and hatred. Her friend and mentor, nineteen-year-old Marvin Cully, had been brutally murdered by the local Klan. The killing of this innocent black man, who worked in the McMahon’s orange grove, will forever change Reesa’s life and the life of everyone in the genteel town of Mayflower, Florida, pitting neighbor against neighbor in a conflict that would ultimately divide a nation.

***Two Old Women* by Velma Willis**

Based on an Athabaskan Indian legend passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River area in Alaska, this is the suspenseful, shocking, ultimately inspirational tale of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine.

If you would like to borrow *A Separate Peace* or *Two Old Women* from Tolland High School, please see Mrs. Coulom at the middle school to sign out a book. Students are responsible for returning borrowed books in good, usable condition. If a book is lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for the replacement cost.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me during the summer: my e-mail address is [sleege@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:sleege@tolland.k12.ct.us) and my phone number is 860-872-6725.

Have a great summer and enjoy reading these and other good books.

Mrs. Leege  
Honors English I