

SUMMER READING

For Students entering 9th Grade Language Arts for the 2011-12 School Year

Overview: Choose and read either Book # 1 (*Ender's Game*) or Book # 2 (*The Human Comedy*) during the summer. Then you will take a reading comprehension quiz on it (i.e. a mini-test) for a grade on the first day of school next fall.

- Note: you must have Mrs. Liebrecht's permission to read # 3 as your primary book as its Lexile score is low.

NEW STUDENTS: If you are new to DCS, please get a copy of the book you want to read from the DCS secretary or buy your own copy at a book store. *All new students who enroll before August 1st*, will be expected to read either Book # 1 or Book # 2 and take the mini-test on the first day of class on September 4th.

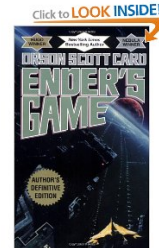
Summer Reading Book Titles:

1. *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card (1977)

Genre: Science fiction **Lexile Score:** 780L

Awards: Hugo and Nebula Awards

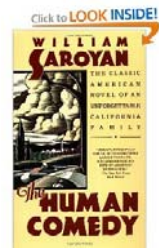
Summary: In a futuristic setting, a young boy is chosen to attend an elite Battle School, where he is trained to be a warrior and has to deal with jealous school bullies and become the number one student in order to save the world.



2. *The Human Comedy* by William Saroyan (1943)

Genre: Fiction (set during WWII) Lexile Score: 760L

Summary: "The place is Ithaca, in California's San Joaquin Valley. The time is World War II. The family is the Macauleys—a mother, sister, and three brothers whose struggles and dreams reflect those of America's second-generation immigrants. In particular, fourteen-year-old Homer, determined to become the fastest telegraph messenger in the West, finds himself caught between reality and illusion as delivering his messages of wartime death, love, and money brings him face-to-face with human emotion at its most naked and raw."



3. *Rip Van Winkle and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

Genre: Short story—Folk tales, Fiction **Lexile Score:** less than 400

Summary:—"Rip Van Winkle" & "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" are two of the most famous short stories in American literature. Washington Irving was the most famous American author in the early 19th century, and these two classic stories have become such an integral part of American culture, that reading them is a MUST if you want to expand your cultural literacy.



Mini-Test

- On the first day of school next fall, Mr. Webster will give a mini-test to find out whether you really did read your book and how well you understood its setting, characters, plot, important quotations, and important ideas.
- Mini-Test Format:** Matching, Fill-in-the-blank Questions, Identifying important quotations, Short essay (i.e. responding to a question in a well-developed paragraph)
 - Note:** there will be NO multiple choice or T/F questions
 - Caution:** For most students, simply reading the book will not be enough to get an A or even a B on the quiz, so I recommend that you take notes in a notebook as you read OR use sticky notes to indicate important passages in the book. Pay attention to character traits of the protagonists and antagonists, and make note of important quotations, the setting of the story, and any important themes that are explored in the book. This will help you do your best on the mini-test.

EXTRA CREDIT!

- If you read the first two books (+3%) or all three books (+5%), you can earn extra credit to be added to your overall semester grade at the end of the semester. All you have to do after reading the books is to take the mini-test for each book you read and receive at least a 75% or higher for each book.
- NOTE: You must have Mrs. Liebrecht's permission to read more than one book (unless you are a new student).