



Out of the Starting Gate

With Senior

2010 Summer Reading

DeSales High School
Department of English

Dear Colt Parent,

Now that summer is beginning, we want to remind you and your son to include two summer reading books into your vacation activities. Because summer reading is an integral part of the English curriculum, the English department has gone to great lengths to select the following books for next year's seniors. Your son will be given an assessment over his summer reading on the second day of classes, and that assessment grade will be counted on his first report card.

These books will be available at local bookstores, at the public library, (call for availability), or online at Amazon.com. **Please encourage your son to read-- it is an important and mandatory part of his education!**

All seniors must read one of the following books:

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

- Concerning the life of Okonkwo, a leader and local wrestling champion in Umofia, this novel takes place in Nigeria and deals with issues like Okonkwo's three wives, children, and the influences of the British and Christianity in his traditional community around the turn of the twentieth century.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

This book, which has gained worldwide attention since its publication, tells the story of Amir, a young boy from Kabul, who befriends Hassan, the son of his father's Hazara servant. The story is set in the very tumultuous time period between the fall of the monarchy of Kabul, through the Soviet invasion, and into the rise of the Taliban. Frighteningly realistic and poignant, it is a true must-read.

All seniors must ALSO read one of the following books:

Deadline by Chris Crutcher

- Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponder his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spirit guide named "Hey-soos."

Into thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer

- This book is a riveting first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. Despite the expertise of Hall and the other leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead. Krakauer's book is at once the story of the ill-fated adventure and an analysis of the factors leading up to its tragic end.

Funny How Things Change by Melissa Wyatt

- Remy, a talented seventeen-year-old auto mechanic, questions his decision to join his girlfriend when she starts college in Pennsylvania, after a visiting artist helps him realize what his family home in a dying West Virginia mountain town means to him.