



Out of the Starting Gate

With Sophomore

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 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 sophomores. 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 sophomores must read one of the following books. All Honors Sophomores must read TWO.

Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream by H.G. Bissinger

- The Permian Panthers of Odessa, Texas, have managed to compile the winningest record in state annals. This book chronicles a season in the life of Odessa and shows how single-minded devotion to the team shapes the community and inspires – and sometimes shatters—the teenagers who wear the Panthers' uniforms.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

- Ender Wiggin is one of a group of children bred to be military geniuses and save Earth from an inevitable attack by the alien "buggers." While Ender becomes unbeatable in war games and seems poised to lead Earth to triumph over the buggers, his brother and sister plot to steal his power. Twists, surprises, and interesting characters make this novel a science-fiction must-read.

The Final Solution: A Story of Detection by Michael Chabon

- The story of a mute boy, his parent, and an old man known only as "The Detective." When Linus's pet parrot begins reading off the code to a secret lockbox, everything about his ordinary life changes instantly. Kidnappings, secret identities, and one of the biggest mysteries of World War II unfold in this exceptional novel by award-winning author Chabon.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

- Taking place in a futuristic timeline in which Mexico has become a feudal society, this book follows the story of Matteo Alacran, a clone of the evil ruler El Patron. When Matt realizes his fate—part of a plot to ensure Patron's immortality—he decides to take matters into his own hands and escape, a choice that will have great consequences for not only him, but his country as well.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

- Sharing a room at Devon, an exclusive New England prep school, in the summer prior to World War II, Gene and Phineas form a complex bond of friendship that draws out both the best and worst characteristics of each boy and leads ultimately to violence, a confession, and the betrayal of trust.