

Parents and Families of Westmont Hilltop Junior-Senior High Students:

The following selections are available to your son/daughter to read in the optional summer reading program. Please review this list and return the signed permission slip located at the bottom of this page. Please note: The 4th selection is only available to grades 9-12. Completed permission slips must be returned in order for students to be allowed to participate in the summer discussions.

1. **Ashes by Kathryn Lasky**

Thirteen-year-old Gabriella Schramm's favorite pastime is reading. With Adolf Hitler slowly but unstoppably rising to power, Gaby turns to her books for comfort while the world around her changes dramatically: The streets become filled with soldiers, Gaby's sister's boyfriend raises his arm in a heil Hitler salute, and the Schramms family friend Albert Einstein flees the country. When Gaby's beloved books come under attack, she fears she may have to leave behind the fiction -and the life- she has always cherished.

*Summary borrowed from: "Ashes." *Goodreads*. <http://www.Goodreads.com>. Accessed 3 April 2019.

2. **When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi**

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. When *Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

*Summary borrowed from: "When Breath Becomes Air." *Goodreads*. <http://www.Goodreads.com>. Accessed 3 April 2019.

3. **Monster by Walter Dean Myers**

Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout. Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system," cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life.

*Summary borrowed from: "Monster." *Goodreads*. <http://www.Goodreads.com>. Accessed 3 April 2019.

4. **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon (Some Profanity) Grades 9-12 only**

Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite (logical) detective, Sherlock Holmes. What follows makes for a novel that is funny, poignant and fascinating in its portrayal of a person whose curse and blessing are a mind that perceives the world entirely literally.

*Summary borrowed from: "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime." *Goodreads*. <http://www.Goodreads.com>. Accessed 3 April 2019.

Thank you!

The Westmont Hilltop English Department

Permission Slip for WH Summer Reading

I grant my student, _____, permission to read a book from the summer reading selections. **I have indicated any book for which he/she should *not* read on the line(s) below.**

Texts:

(Print Name)

(Signature)