

Dear Member of the Class of 2014

May, 2010

The New Trier English Department endorses summer reading as an enriching experience that builds skills in the language arts and fosters sensitivity to and understanding of issues and themes important to us all.

Each course in English has a required summer text to read in preparation for discussion, activities, assignments, and assessments in your class during the first days of school. The reading guide for each book outlines the expected reading activities for each text. We suggest that you read the book within two weeks of the beginning of school, or review the text before school begins in August.

Your text may be purchased at area bookstores or online. We wish you a wonderful summer, and look forward to meeting you in August.

Sincerely,



Edward Zwirner / English Department Coordinator

level 9

English 1T (combined English and History)

level 4

Chang, Pang-Mei. *Bound Feet & Western Dress: A Memoir*. Anchor, 1997. ISBN: 0-385-47964-6

Chang Yu-i, a trailblazing and determined Chinese-American woman, was born in China at the beginning of the twentieth century, when Chinese and Western traditions clashed. As a child, she challenged a strict cultural tradition and this sets her life on a path of further cultural change. Her story is told by her great niece, Pang-Mei, a student at Harvard, who struggles with her own cultural identity. Through these women, we explore a cross-cultural and cross-generational account of the contrasting expectations of two different cultures and the difficult, but ultimately rewarding, means by which one can achieve a sense of independence.

As you read the book, please track the following:

- There are many changes in point of view from Chang Yu-i to Pang-Mei. When you notice such a change in perspective, simply write the name of the speaker.
- Pay special attention to instances when Chinese and Western traditions are in conflict? When such instances arise, make marginal notes summarizing the conflict.

Chang, Leslie. *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*. Spiegel & Grau, 2009. ISBN: 0-385-52018-2

China has 130 million migrant workers – the largest migration in human history. In order to understand this rapidly changing country, a former correspondent from Beijing reveals the intricacies of daily life through two young women as they struggle to survive in the industrial city of Dongguan. Chang also recounts her own Chinese family history, moving from farm to city, and China to America.

As you read, identify main characters, major plot events and moral dilemmas that contribute **most** to the main characters' concern. Record these scenes and page numbers on the inside back cover of your book, **along with why** each event is important to Chang's observations about this migrant society.

As you read the book, be prepared to discuss these other ideas that relate to social studies:

- What characteristics help migrant workers survive?
- In what way does the environment influence individuals within the novel?
- How does the new industrial world conflict with the traditional past for many of the characters?

English 1, Levels 2E and 2

Albom, Mitch. *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Broadway, 1997.

Mitch, a nationally known sports reporter, lives an exciting life minute to minute, until he catches a glimpse of his old college professor, Morrie Schwartz, on Nightline. Morrie is dying and has decided to share his experience with the world. The event brings Mitch and Morrie back together for a series of Tuesday conversations about life's greatest lessons.

As you read the book, consider the following questions and be prepared to discuss them. To prepare yourself, write these questions on the inside cover of your book and include the page numbers of possible answers underneath the questions; underline or highlight the relevant passages in the novel. The questions to keep in mind while you read are:

- Even though they don't travel anywhere, in what ways do Mitch and Morrie go on a journey?
- Looking at the Table of Contents, how do the chapter titles relate to Mitch and Morrie's relationship?
- An aphorism is a concise statement of truth. What are your favorite aphorisms from Morrie?

English 1, Level 3

Bradbury, Ray. *The Martian Chronicles*. Bantam Books, 1984. ISBN: 0-553-27822-3

Science fiction authors use an alternate reality to provide commentary on our society. Though science fiction stories occur in other times or unfamiliar places, science fiction authors deal with human beings, the choices we make, and our interaction with our surroundings. In *The Martian Chronicles*, Bradbury portrays humans as they escape from troubled lives on earth, seeking new lives on Mars. Bradbury uses the experiences of the colonists and the native Martians to pose questions about our own 21st century values and practices.

Before reading, write the following questions on the inside cover of your book. As you read, highlight or underline passages in the novel that address them.

- What values or behaviors are demonstrated by each culture? How do they compare with each other?
- What values or behaviors does Bradbury depict as destructive?
- What examples does Bradbury provide to show how we treat strangers, the environment, and each other?
- What parts of the novel do you recognize as reflections of our own world?

English 1, Level 4

White, T.H. *The Once and Future King*. Ace Trade, 1987. ISBN: 0-441-62740-4

Please purchase *The Once and Future King*, but read only the first section of the trilogy entitled "The Sword in the Stone."

As a boy, Wart and his step-brother, Sir Kay, learn the rules of chivalry, until a strange old wizard enters the picture. Wart's training takes on new forms as his tutor, Merlyn, prepares Wart for the day he will stumble across a sword stuck in a stone and do the impossible. This is T.H. White's retelling of the classic legend of King Arthur.

Before beginning the book, write the question below on the inside cover of your book. Keep this question in mind as you read, underlining and annotating (writing marginal notes in your book) relevant passages from the novel that help you answer it. Additionally, track characters, settings and plot through your annotations.

How does each transformation prepare Wart for the day when he must pull the sword from the stone and fulfill his destiny?