

TO: All incoming Advanced Freshman Language Arts (AFLA) students
FROM: Ms. Carlyn Carroll, Mr. Jim Vacca, & Ms. Maureen Dolan
DATE: January 24, 2009
RE: Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Boulder High School!

****IMPORTANT**** Each AFLA student must turn in a written application, writing sample, and teacher recommendation in order to enroll in this class. Applications are available from the BHS website. If you have any questions, please call Pete Carnes at 303-809-9844 or email him at pjjinxer@aol.com or pete.carnes@bvsd.org.

The 2009 summer reading list for all incoming AFLA students consists of two works:

- *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

Assignment: You must read these books by the first day of school, and you will need them during the school year (if purchase presents a problem, please call Pete Carnes). There is no required essay during the summer; however, feel free to keep some type of reader's journal based on the literary terms listed below. Such a journal would not be turned in for credit, but might help you recall important aspects of the works during early-semester analysis. Of course, we also recommend marking the books as you read. Active readers respond to the text as they read; they monitor comprehension, predict, agree, disagree, recall related experiences, ask questions, connect life with the text, and make connections with other texts. Your thorough understanding of the summer selections will provide a starting point for our discussions and early-year assignments; it will also indicate your level of commitment to this rigorous advanced class. During the first few weeks of school, you will have many assignments that relate to the summer readings: tests, in-class essays, prepared essays, research, discussions, and presentations. A cursory reading will ensure failure on these initial assignments. Certainly, you should enjoy the devouring of these texts as a pleasurable opportunity to practice active-reading skills.

Please pay particular attention to the following literary terms, as their analysis will constitute the majority of the related early semester work.

- Plot • Theme • Tone • Mood • Characterization
- Narration (Point-of-view vs. Perspective) • Narrative Structure
- Figurative Language (Metaphor, Simile, Personification, Hyperbole, Litotes, Sensory Imagery, Allegory, Symbolism) • Irony • Setting • Conflict
- Protagonist • Antagonist • Foil

As this class represents your first step towards AP- and college-level English courses, you should expect that the readings reflect those of higher-education offerings and, thus, incorporate some mature content and themes. Thanks for your time, and please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. Carroll, Mr. Vacca, & Ms. Dolan