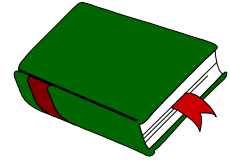


WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST FOR GRADE 10 2009-2010



If you are entering 10th grade **regular level** English, you will be expected to have *read both* **Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" *and President Barack Obama's Victory Speech (11/5/08)*** and read one selection from the list below by the first day of school.

If you are entering 10th grade **honors level** English, you will be expected to have *read and annotated both* **Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper"* and President Barack Obama's Victory Speech (11/5/08)*** and read two selections from the list below by the first day of school.

* "The Yellow Wallpaper" can be found on the Project Gutenberg website (amongst others):
www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?fk_files=1048618&pageno=1
President Obama's speech can be found on the NPR website (amongst others):
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=96624326online>

Summer Reading List Selections

Count on being asked to write about and discuss your summer reading on the first day and during the first week of school in August. We recommend that you take notes as you read, especially on those books you read early in the summer.

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress Sijie Dai, Ina Rilke (Trans) This novel tells the story of two hapless city boys exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution. There, the two friends meet the daughter of the local tailor and discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation. As they flirt with the seamstress and secretly devour these banned works, the two friends find transit from their grim surroundings to worlds they never imagined.

The Bean Trees Barbara Kingsolver A young girl from Kentucky travels west in search of a new life. Her adventures begin when she becomes responsible for a very young Native American girl who cannot talk. How she copes with this situation and further adventures makes fascinating reading.

The Bonesetter's Daughter Amy Tan At the beginning of Amy Tan's fourth novel, two packets of papers written in Chinese calligraphy fall into the hands of Ruth Young. The author is the protagonist's mother, LuLing, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In the documents, the elderly matriarch, born in China in 1916, has set down a record of her birth and family history, determined to keep the facts from vanishing as her mind deteriorates.

Dracula Bram Stoker Of the many admiring reviews Bram Stoker's Dracula received when it first appeared in 1897, the most astute praise came from the author's mother, who wrote to her son: "It is splendid. No book since Mrs. Shelley's Frankenstein or indeed any other at all has come near yours in originality, or terror."

The Endurance: Edward Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition Alfred Lansing In the summer of 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton set off aboard the *Endurance*, bound for the South Atlantic. The goal of his expedition was to cross the Antarctic overland, but more than a year later, and still half a continent away from the intended base, the *Endurance* was trapped in ice and eventually was crushed. For five months Shackleton and his crew survived on drifting ice packs in one of the most savage regions of the world before they were finally able to set sail again in one of the ship's lifeboats. It is hard to put this book down.

Franny and Zooey J.D. Salinger At twenty, Franny Glass is experiencing desperate dissatisfaction with her life and seems to be looking for help via a religious awakening. Her brother Zooey tries to help her out of this depression. An older brother, Buddy, is also an important component of the interrelationships in the Glass family. This is one of several Salinger works that take the reader into the peculiar world of the Glass family.

Girl with a Pearl Earring Tracy Chevalier This novel centers on Vermeer's prosperous Delft household during the 1660s. When Griet, the novel's heroine, is hired as a servant, turmoil follows. First, the 16-year-old narrator becomes increasingly intimate with her master. Then Vermeer employs her as his assistant – and ultimately has Griet sit for him as a model. Chevalier vividly evokes the complex domestic tensions of the household, ruled over by the painter's jealous, eternally pregnant wife and his taciturn mother-in-law.

Montana, 1948 Larry Watson A young boy living in a small town in Montana must choose between family loyalty and justice when he discovers a terrible secret about his war hero uncle.

Moonstone Wilkie Collins Collins was one of the first of the mystery writers to use a detective to solve the case, a crime involving the theft of a diamond that once adorned a Hindu idol. One of the best mysteries ever written, it contains rich language and plotting.

Nickel and Dimed Barbara Ehrenreich Ehrenreich turns her gimlet eye on the view from the workforce's bottom rung. Determined to find out how anyone could make ends meet on \$7 an hour, she left behind her middle class life as a journalist, except for \$1,000 in start-up funds, a car and her laptop computer, to try to sustain herself as a low-skilled worker for a month at a time. This book is the riveting account of her journey.

The Penelopiad Margaret Atwood Learn the basic story and background information about *The Odyssey*, a core first semester text for all sophomores, from the point of view of Odysseus' long-suffering wife, Penelope. While remaining true to the original text, Atwood provides an interesting perspective on the events and characters of *The Odyssey*.

The Perfect Storm Sebastian Junger Meteorologists called the storm that hit North America's eastern seaboard in October 1991 a "perfect storm" because of the rare combination of factors that created it. For everyone else, it was perfect hell. Junger tells the story of the six crew members of the swordfish boat the *Andrea Gail*, all of whom were lost 500 miles from home beneath roiling seas and high waves. Working from published material, radio dialogues, eyewitness accounts and the experiences of people who have survived similar events, Junger attempts to re-create the last moments of the *Andrea Gail* as well as the perilous high-seas rescues of other victims of the storm.

The Picture of Dorian Grey Oscar Wilde In one of his few serious examinations of the narcissism and frivolity of the upper-class, Wilde develops a disturbing story about how far one will go to maintain external beauty at the expense of internal beauty.

The Secret Life of Bees Sue Monk Kidd Set in South Carolina in 1964, the novel tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, they escape to Tiburon, South Carolina - a town that holds the secret to her mother's past.

Travels with Charley: In Search of America John Steinbeck At age 58 John Steinbeck and his venerable standard poodle, Charley, set out on a journey across America in a camper. For three months these companions traveled the nation, meeting friends, strangers, relatives and immersing themselves in the fabric of the country as it was at that time.

