



## Huntington Union Free School District

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1657"

Beth McCoy  
Assistant Superintendent  
Curriculum & Instruction  
June 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: 2018 SUMMER READING PROGRAM, Huntington High School, Advancing to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

We are pleased to present the Huntington High School Summer Reading Program. Summer is a time for exploration and leisure, and we hope that reading will be an important part of your child's summer activities. We have included a suggested reading list from which your child can select a book to read for English class. All books have literary merit, and we urge you to carefully review the list and help your child make a selection that is appropriate based on interest, reading level and maturity.

**Our school district is offering a special opportunity for incoming Huntington High School students. This summer, a Finley Middle School English teacher will give a book talk at the Huntington Public Library (Station Branch) for a half hour on Thursday evenings to inspire your child to read these books.**

**Your child can attend any or all of the offered sessions below. These are free and require no registration.**

**Session Dates: August 2, 9, 16**

August 2<sup>nd</sup> book talk will be on *Twisted* (2008) by Laurie Halse Anderson with Ms. Hudak  
August 9<sup>th</sup> book talk will be on *Breathing Underwater* (2001) by Alex Flinn with Ms. Hudak  
August 16<sup>th</sup> - Ms. Hudak will give guidance in completing the summer reading assignment

**Time:** 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Huntington Public Library (Station Branch)

After attending the evening book talks, regents-level students entering grade 9 will be given guidance in completing a summer reading assignment for English class. In the English Summer Reading Program, students are asked to keep a double-entry journal while reading the book. All students who complete this summer assignment will receive feedback and *earn extra credit in quarter one*.

Students entering English Honors 9 have different requirements, which have been sent home in the acceptance letter. Nevertheless, all students are invited to any, some, or all of these book talk events!

Our English teachers and full faculty encourage you to explore the joy of reading this summer! We also look forward to seeing you at the public library for one or more of these valuable book talks.

Sincerely,

Beth McCoy  
Assistant Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

Joseph Leavy  
Chairperson of Humanities

## English Summer Reading Assignment Directions

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Select **5 - 10 important lines/sections** in total from the book that you've read that relate to the grade-level theme. Choose lines that show how a character acts, thinks, and feels and/or specific plot events associated with course theme. Quote the text. The quotes *do not* have to be the actual character's dialogue and could be part of the narration.

**Please note:** Quotes must be spread evenly and chosen from pages throughout the book. For example: a few quotes from the beginning, some from the middle and from the end of the book that strike you as important. The reading quote organizer will be collected. *An example is shown below.*

THESE JOURNALS MUST BE TYPED. EACH STUDENT WILL SUBMIT THE ASSIGNMENT TO TURNITIN.COM BY SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>. Submission instructions will be provided in September.

Important Quote	Page #	Explanation/ Connection to Theme
"But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself"	6	Harper Lee, in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , makes an allusion to FDR's famous speech "we have nothing to fear but fear itself". This reveals that the setting of the book is the 1930s. If citizens are scared after losing all of their money in the stock market crash they may be less likely to be heroes. It must be hard to stand up for what's right when you have no sense of security. That probably makes those good moral people who end up being heroes even better than the ordinary people in the town.

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## English Course Reading Selections

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### Entering English Ninth Grade (Regents level)

*Thematic Focus: Families, Heroes and Crucial Decisions*

#### **Alex Flinn- *Breathing Underwater* (2001)**

Nick Andreas is a smart, popular 16 year old who seems to have it all. Except he's holding onto one dark secret, his father's violent temper. When Nick meets Caitlin, he thinks that she is the answer to all his problems. When they start dating, Caitlin is everything Nick has ever wanted to balance out his life. But then it all changes. Nick must face that he has inherited more from his father than green eyes and money.

#### **Laurie Halse Anderson- *Twisted* (2008)**

High school senior Tyler Miller used to be the kind of guy who faded into the background. But since he got busted for doing graffiti on the school, and spent the summer doing work to pay for it, he stands out. His new physique attracts the attention of queen bee Bethany Milbury, who just so happens to be his father's boss's daughter, the sister of his biggest enemy—and Tyler's secret crush. And that sets off a string of events and changes that have Tyler questioning his place in the school, in his family and in the world.