

Coventry High School Summer Reading List 2009



Grade 11 Requirements

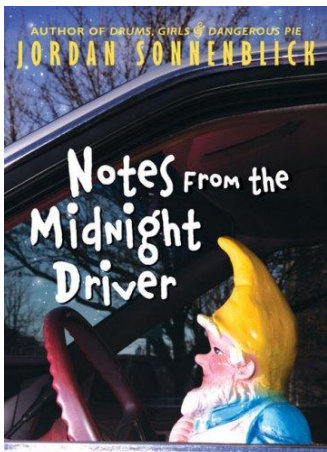
In conjunction with the commitment of the Coventry Public School System, all students will read ONE REQUIRED book during the summer break. If possible, purchasing the books is preferable, as many teachers ask students to utilize texts in class.

Each grade level has been assigned a required selection that aligns with the current curriculum.

The student's knowledge of the required book will be assessed using an objective test during the first weeks of school.

Guidelines to Choosing the Right Books:

- ✓ Books are listed according to student's grade-level.
- ✓ Grade-level is based on the grade the student will enter into in the 2009-2010 school year.



**Required Reading Text – Grade 11
(including literacy/reading
students)**

Notes from the Midnight Driver

By Jordan Sonnenblick

After drinking some alcohol and taking his mom's car for a spin to his father's girlfriend's house, who just happens to be his former third-grade teacher, 16-year-old Alex Gregory finds himself on his neighbors' lawn with police yelling at him and a broken gnome under his car. It is hard to believe that Alex would do anything like this; most of the time he hangs out with his friend Laurie, a sassy petite karate expert, and plays guitar in the school jazz band. He is trying to get over his parents' recent split.

For drinking and driving, Alex is sentenced to 100 hours of community service at a nursing home at which he meets Solomon Lewis. Sol is a difficult, crotchety, eccentric old man with emphysema who lashes out at Alex in strange Yiddish phrases. Soon Alex grows fond of Sol, who teaches him something about the guitar, respecting the elderly, and taking responsibility for his actions.

Alex's voice is fresh and funny, but doesn't downplay the serious situations. The other characters in the book are well defined and add interesting touches to the story.

Fiction
ISBN: 0439757819
265 pages

A list of other recommended reads has also been created below to appeal to a variety of readers with different interests. *These reading selections, however, are NOT required only suggested.*

Recommended Readings – Grade 11

Alt Ed by Catherine Atkins

The self-described fat girl, gay guy, cheerleader, and jock are a few people who find themselves all in a class that is the alternative to expulsion from high school. Think of this book as a modern day *Breakfast Club*, because it's all about people who think they have nothing in common discovering that (some of them, at least) can actually be friends, and really talk to each other.

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

Owen Meany hits the foul ball while playing baseball in the summer of 1953 that kills his best friend's mother. What happens to Owen after the fated event makes this book fascinating.

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer

Krakauer, an avid mountaineer, provides an exciting eyewitness account of the ill-fated 1996 Mount Everest expedition. Despite the presence of experienced leaders, eight climbers died. Find out what happened and how the tragic events could have been prevented.

Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II by Robert Kurson

This dangerous, real life adventure recounts the discovery of a German U-boat more than 200 feet below the Atlantic Ocean off the New Jersey coast by two recreational scuba divers. However, in the seven years between its discovery and positive identification, the lives of several other wreck divers would be lost.

Big Mouth, Ugly Girl by Joyce Oates

Matt has it all—brains, a sense of humor, and popularity. However, when he is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his school, Matt's life drastically changes. The only one who comes to his defense and who will listen to him is one of the school's outcasts and loners, Ursula Riggs.

The Burn Journals by Brent Runyon

In *The Burn Journals*, Runyon describes that devastating suicide attempt and his recovery over the following year. He takes us into the Burn Unit in a children's hospital and through painful burn care and skin-grafting procedures and then to a rehabilitation hospital for intensive physical, occupational, and psychological therapy. Finally back home, he faces the frightening prospect of entering high school.

It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini

New York City teenager Craig Gilner succumbs to academic and social pressures at an elite high school and enters a psychiatric hospital after attempting suicide.

Fences by August Wilson

Maxson, a former star of the Negro baseball leagues who is working as a garbage man in 1957. Maxson sees the world as composed mostly of fences which enclose him. He is very bitter that he was excluded from major league baseball during his prime and was too old to play when the sport finally was integrated. Maxson's son wants a chance at professional sports, but Maxson refuses to let him try his luck. Troy Maxson does not see that not all the fences in his life are societal and that he is fencing in his family.