

**DRACUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DRACUT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
REQUIRED SUMMER READING 2011
STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 9-12**

All students enrolled in Dracut Senior High School (DHS) for the 2011-2012 academic year are required to read two books and complete one written assignment (a character journal) over the summer of 2011. The Dracut Public Schools believes that summer reading and writing are worthwhile endeavors and serve as important components of the high school curriculum.

This will be the second year that DHS will be using a common summer reading book, which establishes firm groundwork for inter-disciplinary connections to be made throughout the year. A common read has the power to unite a school and accentuate its core values and beliefs.

The common summer reading book for all students entering Dracut Senior High School is *Zeitoun* (pronounced “Zay-toon”) by Dave Eggers.

There will be a written assessment (common by grade) given within the first two weeks of school on *Zeitoun*. The student’s score on this assessment is **worth 5%** of his or her first quarter grade in English. There will also be a **creative project on *Zeitoun*** assigned during the first week of school. The student’s score on this project is **worth 5%** of his or her first quarter grade in English.

The Dracut Public Library and local bookshops—The Book Rack, The Book Vendor—have been notified that *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers has been chosen as a common summer reading book. Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Nashua, N.H., has also been notified. Please also see the websites at the end of this announcement for further assistance in acquiring the text.

Every student must select and read one book from the appropriate list (please see **Summer Reading Book Choices) to complete the two book summer reading requirement.** There is a written component to the reading of the book from the student’s appropriate list. **Please see the accompanying Required Summer Writing Assignment for specifics on this assignment.** The score on this assignment is **worth 5%** of the student’s first quarter grade in English. **In total, summer reading and writing are worth 15% of a student’s first quarter grade in English:**

- *Zeitoun* reading and written assessment—5%
- *Zeitoun* project—5%
- Reading and journal of book from appropriate list (on reverse)—5%

Summer Reading List 2011

Choose one (in addition to *Zeitoun*, the common summer reading book)

Students Entering 9th Grade

- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Drive* by Larry Bird and Bob Ryan
- *The Alchemist* by Paula Coelho
- *Eleven Seconds* by Travis Roy
- *Invasion: Story of D Day* by Bruce Bliven
- *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* by Stephen King
- *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult
- *Double Helix* by Nancy Werlin
- *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch

Students Entering 10th Grade

- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer
- *A Good Walk Spoiled: Days and Nights on the PGA Tour* by John Feinstein
- *The Kitchen God's Wife* by Amy Tan
- *It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life* by Lance Armstrong
- *For One More Day* by Mitch Albom
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
- *Dreams From My Father* or *The Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama

Students Entering 11th Grade

- *My Jim* by Nancy Rawles
- *Pudd'nhead Wilson* by Mark Twain
- *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
- *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
- *Last Shot* by John Feinstein
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

Students Entering 12th Grade

- *Alive* by Piers Paul Read
- *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold
- *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut
- *Night Hoops* by Carl Deuke
- *The Locket* by Richard Paul Evans
- *Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah
- *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* by M.T. Anderson
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

***Important Notes:

A Summer Writing Assignment is required along with the reading of one of the books from the above list. Please see separate Summer Writing Assignment page for specifics on this assignment.

Copies of these books are available at the Dracut Public Library and various bookstores. There are several websites that sell these books at a significantly reduced price, including the following:

www.amazon.com and www.halfebay.com

Copies of this document are available at the Dracut Public Library, the main office at Dracut Senior High School, and the Dracut Public Schools' website—www.dracutpublicschools.net. If you have any questions regarding the summer reading and writing program, please contact Robert Moulton, ELA Supervisor of Dracut Public Schools, at rmoulton@dracutpublicschools.net.