

**English III Honors
Summer Reading List
May 8, 2009**

Dear Junior,

Congratulations on your decision to take English III Honors next year. You are required to read one book from the following list over the summer.

A Lesson Before Dying – Ernest Gaines
In Cold Blood – Truman Capote
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou
The Color Purple – Alice Walker
Alas, Babylon – Pat Frank

After reading the book, complete the attached story map. When you return to school, you will turn it in and take a test over the book you have read. We suggest that you take notes, and if you are able to purchase your own copy of the book, highlight and write notes in the margins.

We look forward to working with you next school year.

Sincerely,

Tina Winston
Nancy White

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Please read the following descriptions of summer reading books. They will help you make an informed decision about your reading assignment.

A Lesson Before Dying – “From the author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* comes a deep and compassionate novel. A young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting.”

In Cold Blood – “With the publication of this book, Capote permanently ripped through the barrier separating crime reportage from serious literature. As he reconstructs the 1959 murder of a Kansas farm family and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers, Capote generates suspense and empathy.”

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - “Superbly told, with the poet's gift for language and observation, Angelou's autobiography of her childhood in Arkansas - a world of which most Americans are ignorant.”

The Color Purple – “Published to unprecedented acclaim, *The Color Purple* established Alice Walker as a major voice in modern fiction. Beautifully imagined and deeply compassionate, this is the story of two sisters-one a missionary in Africa and the other a child wife living in the South-who sustain their loyalty to and trust in each other across time, distance, and silence. This classic work of American literature is rich with passion, pain, inspiration, and an indomitable love of life.”

Alas, Babylon – “The classic apocalyptic novel that stunned the nation with its vivid portrayal of a small town's survival after a nuclear holocaust devastates the country.”

Barnes & Noble.com is the source for the information. If you have any trouble obtaining the above novels, please contact guidance.