

To: Parents of Rising Juniors in AP Seminar  
From: AP Seminar Teacher

Dear Parents,

The Language Arts Department at Brookwood High School encourages all of its students to continue reading as part of our summer reading program. It is our goal to make reading a pleasurable activity and a learning experience.

Reading provides many benefits besides the obvious increase in vocabulary skills and general knowledge. Therefore, as we prepare to instruct your son or daughter as a junior at Brookwood High School in the fall, we require each student to prepare for junior year by continuing to read over the summer.

For rising juniors, we suggest one of the following titles be read during the summer:

*Almost Perfect\** by Brian Katcher

*The Things They Carried\*\** by Tim O'Brien

*Hiroshima* by John Hersey

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* By Phillip K. Dick

\*This selection contains some mild sexual content and frank discussions about gender identity; read only if you and your parents are comfortable with such honest accounts.

\*\*This selection contains violent imagery and some coarse language about war and sex as O'Brien recounts the lives of Vietnam era American soldiers; read only if you and your parents are comfortable with such uncensored historical narratives.

As for the novels and works of nonfiction above, please see the second page of this letter for more information about each suggested reading choice. We are certain that you will find one of these choices engaging and rewarding.

All rising juniors are expected to have read their novels before returning to school in August. We will be working on an assignment related to this in the first few weeks of school.

Thank you,

Justin Gorun

justin.gorun@gcpsk12.org

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED SELECTIONS

*Almost Perfect* by Brian Kutcher – A small-town Missouri boy's world is rocked when he falls for the new girl at school, and she eventually confesses to a big secret. Logan's world is small, as is his mind at first, but throughout the book he grows to accept and love Sage for who she is. This remarkable book takes a hard look at the difficulties and pain experienced by young transgendered youth from an easily relatable perspective. (From Amazon.com)

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien – Tracing the tour of one American platoon this book is not just a tale of the Vietnam War, although it's considered one of the finest books ever about combat. This award-winning book is a brutal, sometimes funny, often profound narrative about the human heart—how it fares under pressure, and what it can endure. (From NEAbigread.org)

*Hiroshima* by John Hersey – When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, few could have anticipated its potential for devastation. Pulitzer prize-winning author John Hersey recorded the stories of Hiroshima residents shortly after the explosion and, in 1946, *Hiroshima* was published, giving the world first-hand accounts from people who had survived it. The words of Miss Sasaki, Dr. Fujii, Mrs. Nakamura, Father Kleinsorg, Dr. Sasaki, and the Reverend Tanimoto gave a face to the statistics that saturated the media and solicited an overwhelming public response. Whether you believe the bomb made the difference in the war or that it should never have been dropped, "Hiroshima" is a must read for all of us who live in the shadow of armed conflict. (From Amazon.com)

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan – In sixteen interwoven stories, Amy Tan's characters—four Chinese immigrant mothers and their American-raised daughters—struggle to connect despite the ghosts and secrets of the past. (From NEAbigread.org)

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison – We rely, in this world, on the visual aspects of humanity as a means of learning who we are. This, Ralph Ellison argues convincingly, is a dangerous habit. A classic from the moment it first appeared in 1952, *Invisible Man* chronicles the travels of its narrator, a young, nameless black man, as he moves through the hellish levels of American intolerance and cultural blindness. Searching for a context in which to know himself, he exists in a very peculiar state. "I am an invisible man," he says in his prologue. (From Amazon.com)

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* By Philip K. Dick- By 2021, the World War has killed millions, driving entire species into extinction and sending mankind off-planet. Those who remain covet any living creature, and for people who can't afford one, companies built incredibly realistic simulacra: horses, birds, cats, sheep. They've even built humans. Immigrants to Mars receive androids so sophisticated they are indistinguishable from true men or women. Fearful of the havoc these artificial humans can wreak, the government bans them from Earth. Driven into hiding, unauthorized androids live among human beings, undetected. Rick Deckard, an officially sanctioned bounty hunter, is commissioned to find rogue androids and "retire" them. But when cornered, androids fight back—with lethal force.(from Amazon.com)