

Senior Summer Reading.... go anywhere.....be anyone..... take your brain on vacation



First Coast High School Summer Reading 2009

Vacation Reading for Seniors

Select one of the works below to read this summer. Then complete the Quote Graphic Organizer on the back of this list and bring it with you to your English class the first day of school. Your teacher will give you further instructions. Enjoy!



The Water is Wide, Pat Conroy, \$14.00, 304 pages, Lexile 900 - Water is Wide is the story of Pat Conroy's fight to educate the impoverished children on an isolated island. Yamacraw and its residents are completely oblivious to the outside world around them. The author uses clever techniques to try and save the kids and the island itself.

And Then There Were None, Agatha Christie, \$13.95, 272 pages, Lexile 570 - A group is invited, under false pretenses, to an isolated hotel. After dinner, a cassette tape accuses them all of crimes that they have gotten away with. One by one they begin to die. After a search is made of the hotel, they realize that the murderer is one of them.

Code Orange, Caroline B. Cooney, \$15.95, 200 pages, Lexile 850 - Mitty Blake is an underachieving but capable student attending a private high school in New York City. For Advanced Biology, he must complete a research project about an infectious disease. During his research, Mitty finds an old smallpox scab in a medical journal. A terrorist group monitoring his Internet searches finds out about the scab. The terrorists want to use Mitty as a "weapon" against the people of NYC.

Pretties, Scott Westerfield, \$8.99, 384 pages, Lexile 860 - Sequel to *Uglies*. Tally so thoroughly enjoys the life of a Pretty that she almost forgets the real reason she underwent the surgery. Tally must ultimately decide if the price of being a Pretty is too high.

Grayson, Lynne Cox, \$13.00, 176 pages, Lexile 750 - Long distance swimmer Cox recalls her real-life encounter, at 17-year-old, with an 18-foot baby gray whale who had become separated from his mother. Swimming for hours in 55-degree water, Cox describes the suspenseful adventure of trying to reunite the whale with his mother.

Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream, H.G. Bissinger, \$15.95, 364 pages, Lexile 1260 - In this book that inspired the TV series, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author penetrates the culture of high school football as it is lived in Odessa, Texas.

Breaking Back: How I Lost Everything and Won Back My Life, James Blake, \$14.95, 288 pages - A rising star in the world of pro tennis fights back after suffering a succession of serious setbacks: fractured neck vertebrae, the loss of a father, and a serious viral infection.

Deadline, Chris Crutcher, \$16.99, 320 pages - Eighteen-year-old Ben Wood has been given less than a year to live, but chooses not to tell anyone so his senior year will be as normal as possible. This surprisingly humorous story tracks that final year as Ben goes out for football, finds romance, and realizes that his secret has a serious impact on others.

The Memory Keeper's Daughter, Kim Edwards, \$14.00, 432 pages - During a 1964 blizzard, Dr. David Henry is forced to deliver his own twins. Seeing that one twin is normal and other has Down syndrome, he makes a split-second decision that forever alters the family's life.

My Sister's Keeper, Jodi Picoult, \$14.00, 448 pages, Lexile 840 - Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, the 13-year-old has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow as part of her family's struggle to lengthen Kate's life. As this compelling story opens, Anna has hired a lawyer to represent her in a medical emancipation suit to allow her to have control over her own body. This is a real page-turner and frighteningly thought-provoking.