

Senior-- Summer Reading 2009



RATIONALE: The Juanita High School learning community encourages all of its students to develop into thoughtful, avid readers. With this aim, the staff is asking all incoming seniors to read one of the three books described below and complete the assignment listed below.

All of the local book stores and libraries will be given the list of books and will have them available. We hope that you enjoy your summer reading!

Choose between one of these three books.

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

"Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood," writes Frank McCourt in *Angela's Ashes*. "Worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood." Welcome, then, to the pinnacle of the miserable Irish Catholic childhood. Born in Brooklyn in 1930 to recent Irish immigrants Malachy and Angela McCourt, Frank grew up in Limerick after his parents returned to Ireland because of poor prospects in America. It turns out that prospects weren't so great back in the old country either--not with Malachy for a father. Fortunately, in McCourt's able hands, the story of his father and the family he brought back to Ireland has all the makings for a compelling memoir.—Amazon.com Review

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel

An award winner in Canada (and winner of the 2002 Man Booker Prize), *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel's second novel, should prove to be a breakout book in the U.S. At one point in his journey, Pi recounts, "My greatest wish--other than salvation--was to have a book. A long book with a never-ending story. One that I could read again and again, with new eyes and fresh understanding each time." It's safe to say that the fabulous, fablelike *Life of Pi* is such a book. --Brad Thomas Parsons

Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

Enger's *Peace Like a River* skillfully combines a traditional Western adventure with a challenging exploration of miracles, faith and family. In the *Boston Globe*, Amanda Heller writes, "Book lovers inclined to complain that novelists don't write gripping yarns anymore would do well to pick up a copy of *Peace Like a River*, a compelling blend of traditional and artfully offbeat storytelling...a miracle well worth witnessing." The novel concerns a family struggling to right itself after experiencing a harrowing tragedy. The tale leads to a thrilling modern day search and adventure through the Badlands of North Dakota.

Senior Summer Reading Assignment

After you finish reading your book, complete the following assignment.

Divide your book into approximately 3 sections of equal length. After each section is read, record some notes that reflect your reactions to your chosen book.

- Are you enjoying the reading? Why or why not?
- What major themes, ideas or commentary on modern life emerge through the writing?
- Are you learning anything new from your reading?
- Copy down some favorite passages from your book and the page numbers on which they appear.

Be prepared to write a paper from your notes the first week of your fall semester at Juanita.

**We value your integrity.
Plagiarism and cheating will result
in an irrevocable score of zero.**