



School
District
U•46

South Elgin High School

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*"Taking the future by **STORM**"*

March 2, 2012

Dear incoming 9th grade students and parents/guardians,

As you know, all students at SEHS participate in a comprehensive reading program in their English courses where they select their own novels to read throughout the year. Research supports that avid reading develops critical thinking abilities and strengthens writing skills in students of all ages. Incidentally, when developing readers do not read over the summer months, they can lose up to an entire grade level of reading.

In order to support our literacy efforts at SEHS, we are continuing the summer reading program for all students at each grade level. Students are expected to choose at least one book from the list below and read it over the summer. They should be prepared to discuss their book(s) during the first week of English class in the fall. Additionally, students and parents might consider reading a book together and discussing the conflicts, characters, and title. Attached to this letter you will find three questions that relate to the book. Please answer each question completely and bring the answered responses to class on the first day.

Books may be purchased from Barnes and Noble, Books at Sunset in Elgin, and other area bookstores, or students may borrow books from a local library. Also, books may be purchased online at Amazon.com, Powells.com, betterworldbooks.com and Alibris.com.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lori Lopez, Instructional Chair, at (847) 289-3760 ext. 3344 or lorilopez@u-46.org.

- *Shelter: A Mickey Bolitar Novel* by Harlan Coben
- *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs
- *Linger* by Maggie Stiefvater
- *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner
- *Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip* by Jordan Sonnenblick
- *Dead to You* by Lisa McMann
- *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green
- *I Am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore
- *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor
- *The Serpent's Shadow* by Rick Riordan

Happy Reading!

**This letter can also be found on the SEHS website.*

Freshmen English
Summer Reading Responses

Answer ALL three reading response questions and bring this completed sheet with you to English class on the first day of class.

Think about the problem of your book. What is the major problem that the main characters have to deal with throughout the novel? How does the problem get worse as the novel continues? How is the problem resolved (this can be positive or negative)? Find one quote that shows how the problem was resolved and explain why you chose this quote.

Think about the message of your book. Write a slogan (slogan = catchy phrase usually contains a message) for the main character of the book with an explanation as to why you chose this slogan. It can be related to a lesson learned, an obstacle overcome, or a conflict resolved throughout the novel.

Think about the title of your book. Answer ALL of the questions in a developed paragraph about the title. Why did the author pick that title? How does the title fit the book? How was the title made or included in part of the story? What is another title that would work for this book that would be fitting to the characters and/or storyline? Explain why your new title would work.
