

WELCOME TO SENIOR HONORS ENGLISH

Mrs. Karen Bucholt
Summer Reading and Writing 2010

Lo and behold we initiate your senior studies at The Bromfield School with your final summer reading program. Many of the themes reinforced in the senior English curriculum come to life in your choice summer texts. While next year's journey encompasses Great Britain's contributions to the literary canon, let's relax and simply enjoy a good read. Move quickly and purchase or reserve these texts as they appear frequently on summer reading lists from multiple school districts.

All senior honors English students must read John Irving's **A Prayer for Owen Meany**. Why? This book is one of my favorites. Pay particular attention to the opening chapter; Irving jumps in head first with character development and theme. Expect a serious discussion as soon as we begin classes followed quickly with a major writing assignment.

Your second reading may be selected from the two choices listed below. One writer, Canadian Margaret Atwood, pens a horrific futuristic view of society in **The Handmaid's Tale**. Her title alludes to Geoffrey Chaucer's profound satire, **The Canterbury Tales** that we will experience in September. Your second option, **Cry, The Beloved Country** by South African Alan Paton, lyrically chronicles the black man's struggle under the white man's law. Again, expect a writing assignment on your second book choice. Both novels introduce several dominant themes and images we will experience next year. *Take some worthwhile notes on both books; make observations, do not merely record plot events. These notations may be collected, so take running typed or handwritten notes in chronological order. Note the pages and/or chapters. Enjoy these great books!*

Required: **A Prayer for Owen Meany** by John Irving

Select One: **The Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood
Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton

