

# Torrance High School

## Supplemental Sophomore Summer Reading List

### 2010-2011

Students who are life-long readers are more successful in their academic classes as well as in their careers after graduation. People who read well also write better, have larger vocabularies, score higher on tests, and communicate more effectively.

All sophomores are required to read at least one book on this list or on the Sophomore Summer Reading list prior to the first day of school. The supplemental list is offered to ELL students levels 1-3 or special education students who might find the mainstream list too difficult. The California Department of Education (CDE) or the American Library Association (ALA) recommends all titles on this list. Students need to complete the accompanying questionnaire and have it to turn in on the first day of class in the fall. Students will also be writing an essay based on their selection during the second week of school. The English department suggests that parents and students select thoughtfully and carefully from the list.

Alice Alone – Phyllis Reynolds Naylor: Alice, a ninth grader, breaks up with a longtime boyfriend, is the subject of gossip, and is jolted by her friend Elizabeth's shocking revelation that she is the subject of child abuse. (CDE: 240 pages)

The Kite Fighters – Linda Sue Park: Tradition and family loyalty come into question in this book by the recently named Newbery Medallist, set in Seoul, Korea, in 1473. Two brothers anticipate the annual New Year's Kite competition, wondering how to balance convention and love for one's talent. (CDE: 141 pages)

Bound - Donna Jo Napoli: This story is a classic retelling of the Cinderella story infused with Chinese myths and legends. Protagonist, Xing Xing, who is treated like a servant, is content to practice her gift of poetry and calligraphy and dreams of a life unbound by the laws of family and society. (ALA: 186 pages)

Mud City – Deborah Ellis: Fourteen-year-old Shauzia dreams of seeing the ocean and eventually making a new life in France, but it is hard to reconcile that dream with the terrible conditions of the Afghan refugee camp where she lives. Her decision to leave necessitates Shauzia dress like a boy, as her friend Parvana did, to earn money to buy passage out. (CDE: 176 pages)

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The Other Side of Truth – Beverly Naidoo: When Nigeria's corrupt military government kills their mother, twelve-year-old Sade and her brother Femi think their lives are over. Their father, an outspoken journalist, decides to smuggle the children out of Nigeria and into London. (CDE: 272 pages)

Pictures of Hollis Woods-Patricia Reilly Giff: Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. (CDE: 176 pages)

Coraline – Neil Gaiman: In Coraline's family's new apartment there's a locked door. On the other side is a brick wall—until Coraline unlocks the door and finds a passage to another flat in another house just like her own. Only it's different. The food is better there. Books have pictures that writhe and crawl and shimmer. And there's another mother and father there who want Coraline to be their little girl. They want to change her and keep her with them . . . Forever. (CDE: 192 pages)

Supplemental English 2 Summer Reading List 2010-2011