

**HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE Summer Reading List 2010**  
**Mr. Stiff**

Please read one choice for each author. This is an introduction to some of the authors you'll be studying next year. Focus on setting, writing style, and theme. Check the books out of a library or buy them used if you can. No expense, if possible, is the best choice. There will be an exam over these selections, and we will be discussing each of these pieces extensively the first few days of class. Each of you will be expected to contribute to that conversation. Anyone who has not done all of the reading will be in Honors American Literature only one week.

1. John Steinbeck                      *The Grapes of Wrath*

This book is the summer reading choice for all juniors. Follow the guidelines in the summer reading handout for juniors to be evaluated through your United States history class.

2. Ken Kesey                              *Last Go Round*

This book is a semi-factual novel of the first Round-Up in Pendleton, Oregon, in 1911, an almost mythic contest between a Nez Perce Indian named Jackson Sundown, a white Southerner named Johnny Spain, and an African-American cowboy named George Fletcher. Ken Kesey was a long-time Oregon citizen and acclaimed author.

3. Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn              *China Wakes*

This book is a relatively new choice and is in preparation for a novel by Pearl S. Buck set in China. *China Wakes* is non-fiction and is a series of views of China in the 1990s. Kristof and WuDunn are reporters who worked for *The New York Times* in China for nine years. Mr. Kristof is an Oregonian by birth and attended Yamhill-Carlton High School and was a student of mine for a brief time when he was a senior. He has won a Pulitzer Prize for journalism twice.

4. William Faulkner "Tomorrow" or "Barn Burning"

These are two long short stories that will provide a good introduction to Faulkner's writing style, characters, and Mississippi setting, which he used in almost all of his short stories and novels. "Tomorrow" can only be found in a collection of mystery stories by Faulkner titled *Knight's Gambit*. "Barn Burning" can be found in almost any collection of Faulkner short stories.

**AGAIN, AVOID ANY MONETARY EXPENSE IF YOU CAN, BUT GET THIS READING DONE.**