

Ms. Larkin, Ms. Macaluso

English IIIH

June 2010

Grade 11 Summer Reading – HONORS

Assignment: Select and read TWO of the books below. Find, print, read, highlight, and annotate TWO articles from The New York Times (available online) that relate to the ideas in EACH book (for a total of FOUR articles). Be prepared to give an oral presentation on your reactions to your chosen books and articles, being sure to express how the articles speak to or extend the ideas expressed in the book.

To access the NY Times online from home:

www.proquestk12.com

user name 84-65785 password bigchalk

Go to *My Products* page.

D’Orso, Michael. *Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska.* 2006. Bloomsbury.

This true story explores the tiny village of Fort Yukon, Alaska, its vanishing cultural heritage, and its relationship with mainstream American culture through its high school basketball team.

King, Melissa. *She’s Got Next: A Story of Getting In, Staying Open, and Taking a Shot.*

Through pick-up basketball games and the people she meets on the streets of Chicago, the author learns valuable life lessons.

Larson, Erik. *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America.*

The 1893 Chicago World's Fair captured the imagination of the whole world, and also provided a playground for a cunning serial killer.

Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.* Skloot brilliantly weaves together the story of Henrietta Lacks--a woman whose cells have been unwittingly used for scientific research since the 1950s--with the birth of bioethics, and the dark history of experimentation on African Americans.

Bryson, Bill. *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail.* Stretching from Georgia to Maine, the Appalachian Trail offers some of America's most breathtaking scenery. After living for many years in England, Bill Bryson moved back to the United States and decided to reacquaint himself with his country by taking to this uninterrupted "hiker's highway." Before long, Bryson and his infamous walking companion, Stephen Katz, are stocking up on insulated long johns, noodles and

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manuals for avoiding bear attacks as they prepare to set off on a walk that is both amusingly ill-conceived and surprisingly adventurous. *A Walk in the Woods* showcases Bryson at the height of his comic powers. Fresh, illuminating, and uproariously funny, *A Walk in the Woods* is travel writing at its very best.

Katz, Jon. *A Dog Year: Rescuing Devon, the Most Troublesome Dog in the World.*

The story line of Katz's latest book can be summed up very simply two dogs die and two new ones join the family but its charm comes from an intricate blend of witty anecdote and touching reflection. Katz has shared his affection for years with two low-maintenance Labs, whose "chosen work was to reflect on the state of the world, lick neighborhood kids, and accompany [him] through midlife." So it is somewhat surprising that he next adopts a frenetic and demanding border collie he occasionally refers to as "Helldog." His life turned upside down; his writing schedule disrupted, he learns to center his life around a dog's needs rather than vice versa. After adopting the homeless Devon, Katz adopts his second border collie, Homer, because Oprah Winfrey urges him to. (He appears on her show for his book about his Labs, *Running to the Mountain*.) He's fallen in love with the breed's intelligence and curiosity. In fact, both breeds seem to touch something in his soul the Lab his centered, peaceful side; the border collie his troubled side. Over the course of the year, Katz reflects on the importance of devotion to and understanding of any animal taken into the home; ways to live peacefully with border collies; and even the problems of midlife crisis.