

**MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT – MIRA COSTA HIGH SCHOOL
2009 SUMMER READING for INCOMING College Prep FRESHMEN (English 1-2 CP)**

- Freshmen are required to read TWO of the novels below, in their entirety, before school starts in the fall.
- Be prepared to bring in the two marked-up texts and to write a paper analyzing the books during the first week of school.
- **THE REQUIRED BOOK IS:**

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

ISBN-13: 9781400032716

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"Christopher Boone is fifteen and has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a great deal about math and very little about human beings. When he finds his neighbor's dog murdered, he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his world upside down." – barnesandnoble.com

- **IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIRED TEXT, FRESHMEN MUST ALSO READ A TEXT FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST OF NOVELS:**

Always Running by Luis J. Rodriguez

ISBN-13: 9780743276917

Genre: Autobiography

"By age twelve, Luis Rodriguez was a veteran of East L.A. gang warfare. Lured by a seemingly invincible gang culture, he witnessed countless shootings, beatings, and arrests, then watched with increasing fear as drugs, murder, suicide, and senseless acts of street crime claimed friends and family members. At times heartbreakingly sad and brutal, *Always Running* is ultimately an uplifting true story, filled with hope, insight, and a hard-learned lesson for the next generation." – barnesandnoble.com

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas

ISBN-13: 9780812968378

Genre: Memoir

"Funny in Farsi chronicles the American journey of Dumas' wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself. Above all, this is an unforgettable story of identity, discovery, and the power of family love." – barnesandnoble.com

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

ISBN-13: 9780743247542

Genre: Memoir

"Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an 'excitement addict.'" – barnesandnoble.com

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

ISBN-13: 9780812968064

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"Snow Flower and the Secret Fan is a brilliantly realistic journey back to an era of Chinese history that is as deeply moving as it is sorrowful. With the period detail and deep resonance of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, this lyrical and emotionally charged novel delves into one of the most mysterious of human relationships: female friendship." – barnesandnoble.com

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

ISBN-13: 9780743298032

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"A compelling emotional mystery in the timeless vein of Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, about family secrets and the magic of books and storytelling. Margaret Lea works in her father's antiquarian bookshop where her fascination for the biographies of the long-dead has led her to write them herself. She gets a letter from one of the most famous authors of the day, the mysterious Vida Winter, whose popularity as a writer has been in no way diminished by her reclusiveness. Now she is old and ailing, and at last she wants to tell the truth about her extraordinary life. Her letter to Margaret is a summons." – barnesandnoble.com

Way of the Peaceful Warrior by Dan Millman

ISBN-13: 9780915811892

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"During his junior year at the University of California, while training to become a world-champion gymnast, Dan Millman stumbled on a 94-year-old mentor nicknamed Socrates, a powerful, unpredictable, and elusive character. He taught a way to maximize performance using a unique blend of Eastern philosophy and Western fitness to cultivate the true essence of a champion - the 'way of the peaceful warrior.' Millman's first-person account of his odyssey into realms of light, darkness, mind, body, and spirit has since become an international bestseller about the universal quest for happiness." – barnesandnoble.com

** Attention Parents: This list represents a diversity of reading levels and interest areas. Some books, especially those published after 1960, may contain profanity and/or sexual material. Please work closely with your child to make the appropriate selections.*