



Dear Incoming Juniors,

May 2009

I look forward to teaching you American Literature. To jumpstart our conversation and provide a starting place for our journey, you will read three books and complete three assignments relating to them. The first two required books are relatively recent classics that many of your parents (and all of this year's seniors) have read; please feel free to engage in discussions with them.

Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*
Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*.

The third book is a play, and you may choose from the following. I recommend you read both, but it is only required that you read one. There is no writing assigned with this play.

Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*
Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

The assignments for each text are accessible via the Crossroads College Prep website or by going to <http://sites.crossroadscollegeprep.org/summerreading/> Have fun this summer and happy reading!

Yours,

Sarah Pierson Wolff

N.B. Of course, students entering our 11th grade have learned the bases in Lessons 1-13 in *Everyday Words from Classic Origins* as well as a few vocabulary words for each base. The workbook is available from Lisa Straub in the front office (367-8085 X 203). Every student needs one. You will need your novels and writing assignments on the first day of school. This is my first impression of what kind of high school student you are. Make it good.

Crossroads College Prep School
11th grade Summer Reading 2009 (part 1 of 3)
The Joy Luck Club

The Joy Luck Club is a novel about eight women; it is occasionally hard to keep these women straight. Please take notes on this chart as you read, recording salient plot details about the characters as well as any quotations that help elucidate the women's characters.

Mothers

Daughters

Suyuan Woo	Jing-mei "June" Woo
An-Mei Hsu	Rose Hsu Jordan
Lindo Jong	Waverly Jong
Ying-ying St. Clair	Lena St. Clair

Crossroads College Prep School
11th grade Summer Reading 2009 (part 2 of 3)
The Joy Luck Club

Analytical Writing Assignment

The novel *The Joy Luck Club* is told in four sections: “Feathers From a Thousand Li Away,” “The Twenty-Six Malignant Gates,” “American Translation,” and “Queen Mother of the Western Skies.” Before each of the sections, the author tells a short parable. As a way for me to ascertain your comprehension of the novel’s themes and the strength of your analytical writing, please choose ONE of the four sections and write ONE paragraph defending the given parable as an introduction to the themes of the section that follows. Your first sentence will serve as a thesis (or topic sentence) for the paragraph’s argument. (Use the standards for analytical writing you have studied for three years, most recently with Anne; refer to the Handbook as necessary to ensure adherence to form. It must be perfect MLA formatting with evidence, citations, analysis, transitions, and a Work Cited entry. Your editing and proofreading as juniors should be impeccable.)

Crossroads College Prep School
11th grade Summer Reading 2009 (part 3 of 3)
The Things They Carried

The Things They Carried may seem like a collection of short stories, but it is generally considered to be a novel unified by character and theme. To evaluate the unity of what is a challenging piece of fiction, please fill out the following information for each of the twenty-two chapters. Please follow this format:

Title:

Page # in your copy of the book:

Major Characters:

Plot summary:

Stylistic analysis (the “brush strokes” and the “bricks and mortars” of the language)

Please have fun with your reading and writing, but be neat. Typing, as always, is ideal, but clearly labeled and neatly presented handwritten work is acceptable.