

GREAT PATH ACADEMY'S SUMMER READING

Continuing to read in the summer reinforces the skills that will help you to succeed in school and life. Please take the opportunity to choose one of the following books for your summer reading. (All incoming sophomores must read *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*. Juniors and seniors, returning and new to GPA, may choose from any of the three books.) A brief description of each is included to help you decide.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon

By Stephen King

Scribner Book Company

ISBN: 0689862725

Not your typical Stephen King horror-fest, *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* is more of a rite-of-passage tale where nature and the supernatural are interwoven. Nine year-old Trisha is on a hike with her mother and brother. When she becomes upset because mom and brother are bickering over her parents' recent divorce, Trisha wanders away and becomes lost in the woods. Her ordeal continues for several days and nights, testing her ability to survive alone and keep her spirits up. The title refers to Tom Gordon, the former Red Sox closer and Trisha's favorite player. Trisha believes she must emulate him in order to face fearsome opponents and "close" out her ordeal. In addition to its themes of *man vs. nature* and *self-reliance*, the novel also draws on several Native American traditions, with Trisha's ordeal serving as a sort of "vision quest".

How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else

By Michael Gates Gill

Harper Collins

ISBN: 1592402860

Author Michael Gates Gill loses his "high powered" advertising position and goes to work in an entry-level job out of desperation. There he is forced to confront his racism and classism as he learns the value of hard work and humility.

Last Night I Sang to the Monster

By Benjamin Alire Saenz

Cinco Puntos Press

ISBN: 1933693584

Eighteen-year-old Zach does not remember how he came to be in a rehab center rather than his senior year of high school. Through therapy and caring friends he learns to deal with his lost childhood. His amnesia fades and he learns to face his past while working toward a better future.

All books are available for purchase or loan at the following locations: Barnes and Noble (Manchester), MCC bookstore, MCC library, public libraries at Tolland, Coventry, Bolton, Hartford, East Hartford, Bloomfield, Manchester, South Windsor, and Glastonbury.

The following writing activity will enable you to start the 2011-2012 school year with a positive test grade in your English class as it is your first assignment. **In one-two pages (double spaced, 12 font), pick a character and explain how you related to the character. Be sure to include some of the following;**

his/her *struggles

***experiences**

***growth**

***philosophy of life**

HAPPY READING !!!!