

# West Chicago Community High School

## Language Arts Division – “Find Your Voice”

May 2016

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Dear WEGO Class of 2020 and Families,

The West Chicago Community High School Language Arts Division congratulates you on your upcoming graduation and welcomes you to WEGO! Next month, our annual Summer Reading program begins.

**ALL WCCHS students participate in summer reading, and all 9<sup>th</sup> graders are required to read one book from the grade level list below.**

This year’s freshman list includes some familiar titles such as *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, in addition to other fiction and non-fiction options. Most of the titles examine “Coming of Age,” which is a conceptual focus for the year.

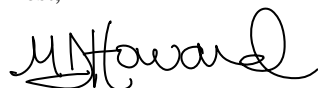
West Chicago Community High School Freshman Required Reading 2016	
<p><b>Fiction</b>  <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> (600L*), Sherman Alexie  <i>Speak</i> (690L), Laurie Halse Anderson  <i>Monster</i> (670L), Walter Dean Myers  <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>** (940L), Ernest Hemingway</p> <p><b>Non-fiction</b>  <i>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i> (920L), Ishmael Beah  <i>Go: A Kidd’s Guide to Graphic Design</i> (1110L), Chip Kidd  <i>The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir</i>*** (970L), Gaby Ramirez  <i>Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir</i>, Liz Prince</p>	<p>Choose ONE book.</p> <p>Read it!</p> <p>Bring it to class.</p> <p>Be ready to talk and write about your book.</p>

This fall English classes will include activities and writing based upon these summer books, so please plan to bring your summer reading book to class in September. Students are encouraged to read their book of choice for pleasure; consider it a “beach read” that can be enjoyed anywhere at any time! You are strongly encouraged to read more than one book from the list – and/or books of your choice. Students who read consistently during the summer months maintain or improve their reading ability while non-readers often regress, which can cause or increase an achievement gap.

**Students enrolled in English 1 Honors have an additional reading assignment.** They must complete a close reading of two canonical novels, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, after reading a book from the grade level list. More information about requirements for English 1 Honors will be available on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium during our Honors & AP Summer Reading Night. Books will be available for sale beginning at 6 p.m. outside the auditorium.

Please visit the language arts page on the school website, [www.d94.org](http://www.d94.org), in June for additional information or contact me at [mhoward@d94.org](mailto:mhoward@d94.org).

Best,



Mary Howard  
Language Arts Division Chair

\*Lexile ratings approximate the level of difficulty of a text based upon vocabulary and sentence length. See the Lexile website for details. Visit [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com).

\*\**The Old Man and the Sea* is available as a free eBook, pdf, or through Project Gutenberg at <http://www.gutenberg.ca/ebooks/hemingwaye-oldmanandthesea/hemingwaye-oldmanandthesea-00-t.txt>.

\*\*\*Mature subject and content

**Mission:** The Community High School District 94 Language Arts Division exists to develop an environment and a curriculum that encourages a lifelong appreciation of reading, writing and speaking as universally attainable means of profoundly enriching one’s own life experiences. Students should expect to be routinely challenged to become increasingly more proficient communicators and grow in their understanding of the various ways in which human beings make sense of their worlds with words.