**Hammonton Public Schools**

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**Robin Chieco Tammy Leonard**

**Superintendent of Schools Assistant Superintendent**

Parents, guardians, and students of Hammonton High School,

We are pleased to announce a new summer reading format from the Hammonton High School English Department. We are offering students and parents a choice from four books which all explore a common theme:

Theme: **Fate vs. Free Wil**l: Do the choices we make in life dictate our outcome or is our destiny already predetermined? The following stories share the common theme of fate and how much control we have over it.

Choose one of the following books from the list below:

* **High Interest Young Adult Literature**: *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
	+ **This**is a novel written in free verse poetrythat tells the story of 15 year old Will who seeks to avenge his murdered brother Shawn. Will encounters ghosts from his past who cause him to question his plan for revenge. This book contains language, images, and content that may beintended for mature adolescent readers.
* **Clean Read**: *Dry* by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman
	+ When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival. This clean read follows atraditional novel format without sexual content or excessive language.
* **Classic:** *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
	+ Jack London’s classic novel, written in 1903, explores a dog’s adventure in the Yukon.
* **Nonfiction:** *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonheoffer & the Plot to Kill Hitler* by John Hendrix
	+ The nonfiction selection is a graphic novel (a type of text combining words and images) about a German pastor whose faith in God drives him to join the German resistance in plots to assassinate Adolf Hitler. Note: the graphic novel mentions the historically accurate portrayal of heinous war crimes committed by the Nazis.

**Parents are urged to investigate and discuss the choice with students prior to selection and purchase of the book** in order to suit the needs of the student’s academic level, point of interest, maturity, and age. We offer the young adult literature selection because students find it interesting, engaging and readable. Inevitably, books from this genre contain mature content. Thus, we offer as alternatives; a novel without mature content or “clean read”, a classic work of literature, or a non-fiction book. The choice gives parents input on what their children are reading and ensures that no student is compelled to read any particular book.

We feel that this approach is an effective way to meet the needs and interests of all within our diverse community of learners. **Parents are encouraged to take an active role in the selection process**. Please feel free to contact me or your child’s English teacher if you have further questions about the program or any of the books. Thank you.

Respectfully,



**Lewis M. Testa**

**District Supervisor of Language Arts & Social Studies (K-12)**

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