

# College Prep English 11

## Summer Reading

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READ THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREE BOOKS AND THE GUIDING QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU BEGIN READING EACH BOOK.

Keep the questions at hand as you read—take notes, in the books if they are yours or on paper (a reading journal).

### **Assessment – first full day of classes:**

You will be asked to answer multiple choice questions and to respond to short answer questions for all three novels.

Think about how all three novels are related; what are their similarities? What are their major differences?

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### ***The Hunger Games* – Suzanne Collins**

Welcome to the Hunger Games, a Capitol-endorsed reality TV show in which Katniss can only prevail by killing the other players...even Peeta, who once saved her from starvation and is her partner.

As you read, look for and take note of the various issues that this book addresses:

- The nature of contests, all kinds
- Survival issues
- Reality TV – *Survivor*, *Lost*,
- Dystopian societies – societies that pretend to be perfect—utopias—but are actually the opposite
- Class struggles
- Interpersonal relationships
- Science Fiction

1. What, exactly, does *The Hunger Games* say about these issues?
2. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. Of what events from history does *The Hunger Games* remind you?
4. What books or movies have you read or seen that deal with these issues? How are they related?
5. Would you want to read the next book in this trilogy? Why?

In addition to these questions, you should be familiar with the characters, the nature of their relationships, the importance of personal skills and the role of the media in the novel *and* in our lives today.

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### ***Unwind* – Neal Shusterman**

An orphan, a rebel, and a Chosen One join forces while trying to escape being unwound, a process in which a person is harvested for parts. Risa, Conor, and Lev struggle to escape the insanity of their society.

As you read this novel, look for connections to issues and concerns in books you have read, history, and current events, including:

- The Holocaust

- Terrorism & suicide bombers
- Abortion
- Adoption
- Organ donation & cloning
- Euthanasia
- Capital punishment

Carefully consider your thoughts about each of these controversial issues *before* and *after* reading *Unwind*. Have your attitudes changed at all? Why?

1. What, exactly, does *Unwind* say about these issues?
2. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. What are some of the major conflicts in this story?
4. Which character is the most like you? Why?
5. In what ways is the ending satisfying? Unsatisfying?
6. Of what specific events from history or today does Unwind remind you?

### ***Streams of Babel* – Carol Plum-Ucci**

Whatever you do, don't drink the water!

Six teens face a bio-terrorist attack as four are infected with a mysterious disease and two computer techies assist the US Intelligence Coalition in tracking the perpetrators.

As you read, notice what this novel is saying about the following issues:

- Biological warfare
- Terrorism
- Communicable diseases
- Death
- Addiction
- Hackers
- Spies
- Immigrants

What events in *Streams of Babble* might happen today?

Do you think some of these things may have happened already? Why?

Compare *Streams of Babble* to the other two books. What is it about this book that is most frightening?

What is this novel's major theme, its message for you, the reader?