

## Junior-- Summer Reading-2009



**RATIONALE:** The Juanita High School learning community encourages all of its students to develop into thoughtful, avid readers. With this aim, the staff is asking all incoming juniors to read one of the three books described below and complete the assignment listed.

All of the local book stores and libraries will be given the list of books and will have them available. We hope that you enjoy your summer reading!

*Choose between one of these three books.*

*Run—Ann Patchett*

*Run* is a modern novel filled with crucial themes concerning social class, parenthood and bonds that stretch far beyond multicultural limits. *Publisher's Weekly* notes: that *Run* "is lovely to read and is satisfyingly bold in its attempt to say something patient and true about family." *Run* will encourage you to rethink the importance and meaning of a supportive family. Its story that takes place in and around Harvard University consists of a fantastic elementary school sprinter, two adopted African American college students and a shocking car accident. This twists and turns of this surprising novel will have you turning pages into the night!

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian—Sherman Alexie*

Junior is fourteen years old and stays inside most of the time, preferring drawing to getting beat up and teased because of his disproportionate looks. He has a best friend named Rowdy, who Junior describes as the toughest kid on the reservation ("rez" for short). His parents are alcoholics and his sister lives in the basement. He and his family seem to be living a vicious circle of desperation and hopelessness. But Junior's sudden decision to leave the rez and transfer to an all-white school propels him and his family through a journey of self-discovery. Through school yard fights and thrilling basketball games, Junior somehow gets a sense of direction in his crazy world. This book is often hilarious and yet very touching. The novel includes plenty of illustrations by Seattle's own Ellen Forney.

*Plainsong*—Kent Haruf

*Plainsong* is a gripping story of individual struggles with human problems dealt with in a very human way. The struggles we see detailed are wonderfully real and simple. *Plainsong* is set in a small Colorado hamlet where some of the characters drive pickup trucks. Others drive black cars. Some are school teachers, some are farmers and some shopkeepers and some are high school students. All of them come alive in a skillfully told story that is warm and real without even a hint of the trite. *Plainsong* is a graceful, elegant and eloquently-told story that will be with me for a long time.—Linda Richards, *January Magazine*

## **Junior Summer Reading Assignment**

After you finish reading your book, complete the following assignment.

Divide your book into approximately 3 sections of equal length. After each section is read, record some notes that reflect your reactions to your chosen book.

- Are you enjoying the reading? Why or why not?
- What major themes, ideas or commentary on modern life emerge through the writing?
- Are you learning anything new from your reading?
- Copy down some favorite passages from your book and the page numbers on which they appear.

Be prepared to write a paper from your notes the first week of your fall semester at Juanita.

**We value your integrity.  
Plagiarism and cheating will result  
in an irrevocable score of zero.**

