

**To: Fundamentals of English grades 7-12**  
**From: The English Department**  
**Re: Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Date: June 2017**



For summer 2017, the entire PRHS school community will focus on ONE Essential Question: ***Open Mind, Open Heart--How do people rely on social circles to grow while also embracing individuality?***

Two titles have been selected for their relevance, reading accessibility and interest.

**Incoming grade 7-8 students/faculty will be reading *Rules* by Cynthia Lord.**

- Brief introduction to Lord's fictional novel: Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence, but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

**Incoming grade 9-11 students/faculty will be reading *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's* by John Elder Robison.**

- Brief introduction to Robison's memoir: The author describes life growing up different in an odd family, his unusual talents, his struggle to live a "normal" life, his diagnosis at the age of forty with Asperger's syndrome, and the dramatic changes that have occurred since that diagnosis.

The book must be read by the first day of school in September. During the first week of school, you will be assessed on the reading, and the assessment will count as English grades for the first marking period.

A community that reads together grows together. Having a shared experience through summer reading will allow us to engage in the book across subject areas and throughout the school year. **Students, teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents will read the same book.** Then, beginning in September 2017, various lessons and activities related to our summer reading will be featured in English, as well as Social Studies, Science, Math, World Language, Business, Computers, Art, Music and PE classes.

To assist you with reading comprehension, you are encouraged to take notes and use post-its while you read. For the first week of school **students must complete at least ONE graphic organizer** (see PRHS website—Student dropdown menu—HS English Summer Reading).