

Dear Incoming Sophomore Parents/Guardians and Students,

The Bettendorf High School staff strives to instill the love of reading for pleasure as well as accountability. In addition, the state of Iowa recommends that every student read a minimum of twenty-five books a year. As of 2007, Bettendorf High School has required incoming general sophomores to read one selected text and honors students to read two. This year all students will read the same text: *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, and the honors students will also read *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass.

In the past, students completed on-line reading forms over the books, but we have changed that requirement. This year, students will use the books for discussion and reference in class whether at the beginning or throughout the course. Students will be held accountable for the reading, thus they should take some type of notes for reference.

These texts can be obtained at:

- Public libraries
- Major book sellers (Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million (BAM), etc.)
- **Also, BHS will have copies of each title available for checkout at the beginning of June in the main office on a first-come, first-serve basis. We ask that you return them as soon as possible, so other students may check them out.**

If you have any questions, please call the high school at 332-7001. Thank you in advance for encouraging and supporting your student through the summer reading requirement.

Happy Reading!

The Bettendorf High School
Language Arts Department

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (228 pages)

"The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family" (goodreads.com).

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass (158 pages)

"Born into a family of slaves, Frederick Douglass educated himself through sheer determination. His unconquered will to triumph over his circumstances makes his one of America's best and most unlikely success stories. Douglass' own account of his journey from slave to one of America's great statesmen, writers, and orators is as fascinating as it is inspiring" (goodreads.com).