

Welcome to Creative Writing!

I hope you're looking forward to a semester spent writing together as much as I am. Creative Writing is a unique elective that affords you the opportunity to study and practice a variety of writing techniques, styles and genres while refining your skills as a thinker, peer and self-editor and reader.

The Libertyville High School English Department recently modified our summer reading initiative to better align with our philosophies of education and reading. To that end, I am providing a few suggested texts emerging writers might enjoy reading over the summer. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to promote literacy by recommending valuable texts relevant to this specific curriculum. Below, you will find two suggested books that I have enjoyed and think would be helpful in readying yourself for next school year.

If you're even mildly interested in the craft of writing (as you must be, having enrolled in this course!), surely you know that writers are readers. Therefore, in addition to the reading you choose for yourself this summer, considering reading Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*. This nonfiction text, highly lauded by professional and aspiring writers alike, is told in two parts: the first is a collection of masterfully-crafted stories and anecdotes from King's youth, and the second is thoughtful instruction on sharpening a writer's "tools" of the trade. I believe this book has something for everyone and sincerely hope you enjoy the lessons—on life *and* writing—King has to offer.

Another great book is *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott. This, too, is a text that offers practical tools for emerging writers as well as advice and lessons that can be applied beyond the scope of writing instruction. Lamott's often-celebrated book was hailed by the *New York Times* as "superb writing advice...hilarious, helpful and provocative." *Bird by Bird* is an entertaining and informative read that will help you discover (or rediscover) your passion for writing.

I hope you'll enjoy reading and relaxing this summer, and I look forward to a semester of thinking, writing and sharing with you. Best wishes for the summer and the coming year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. LeMaistre