

WSHS Honors English IV Summer Reading

1. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* By Mark Haddon
(ISBN-13: 9781400032716)

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. (Haddon, Mark. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." *Bookaxe | Book Recommendations and Readers like You*, www.bookaxe.com/.)

Note: Be sure to read the novel not the script of the play.

2. *Grendel* By John Gardner (ISBN-13: 9780679723110)

The first and most terrifying monster in English literature, from the great early epic Beowulf, tells his side of the story in a book William Gass called "one of the finest of our contemporary fictions." (Gardner, John. "Grendel." Goodreads, Goodreads, www.goodreads.com/.)

Ancillary Resources:

For background information on the epic poem *Beowulf* and a brief summary of the original tale, read "Slaying Monsters Tolkien's 'Beowulf.'" by Joan Acocella.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/06/02/slaying-monsters>.

For further reading, check out Seamus Haney's or Burton Raffel's modern translations of *Beowulf* or Gareth Hinds' graphic novel of the epic poem.