### **SSR**

"Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) is a period of uninterrupted silent reading. It is based upon a single simple principle: Reading is a skill. And like all skills, the more you use it, the better you get at it. Conversely, the less you use it, the more difficult it is. Like swimming, once you learn it, you never forget it. But in order to get better at either reading or swimming, you must jump into the book or the water and do it over and over."

### **Guidelines for Using Sustained Silent Reading Time**

1. Students must read for the entire allotted reading period.
2. You cannot do homework or read any material for another course. SSR is not a study hall.
3. You must read a book. This year you will have a specific book that you will chose for SSR. If you do not have your novel in class, you will be docked points, and must read another book during this time. **If you miss a day of SSR you have one week to make it up in one of these ways.**
   1. Come in at lunch or before school to read
   2. Bring a note from a parent or guardian stating you read for the allotted amount of time
   3. Get a note from another teacher during a study hall or aide period you have read in.
4. You must have your book in your possession when SSR times starts; this is the main responsibility involved in coming prepared to class.
5. You may not talk or disturb others.
6. You may sit or recline where you like as long as feet don’t go up on the furniture and rule #5 is maintained.
7. Please don't ask to leave the room at this time. It disturbs others.

Research tells us that high school students spend no more than 1% of their free time reading, while 30% of their free time is spent watching television playing video games or searching for new virtual friends.

It is my objective to make each senior a life-long reader. To do this I must make SSR “worth your time.” Nothing aggravated me more than coming to school and doing something that didn’t “matter” or wouldn’t help me in class or in the future. Each SSR period will be worth ten (10) points and each quarter will end in a Socratic Seminar worth at least sixty (60) points. (in the end SSR will be worth more than any other individual assignment you complete in this class save the Senior Project.)

### **Break Down**

Each quarter you will select a novel based on my parameters and based on your reading skill. The book should be a challenge to keep your interest, but not so hard that it frustrates you and makes you quit reading. Usually one class period per week will be devoted to SSR. You must bring your novel to class as stated in the guidelines above. You receive points for arriving on time with your novel.

During the quarter we will have a Socratic Seminar where you will be asked to bring to the class questions, passages and insights that you find interesting from your novel. This way we can share a little of our novel with the rest of the class. This is not a summary or a book report. More about this in the hand out entitled Socratic Seminars.