

**Putnam Valley High School**  
**12th Grade**  
**Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**  
**Summer Reading**  
**2008**

**Students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade AP English must read the two following texts:**

***One Hundred Years of Solitude***

Gabriel García Márquez

One of the 20th century's enduring works, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is a widely beloved and acclaimed novel known throughout the world, and the ultimate achievement in a Nobel Prize-winning career. The novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. It is a rich and brilliant chronicle of life and death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the noble, ridiculous, beautiful, and tawdry story of the Buendía family, one sees all of humanity, just as in the history, myths, growth, and decay of Macondo, one sees all of Latin America. Love and lust, war and revolution, riches and poverty, youth and senility -- the variety of life, the endlessness of death, the search for peace and truth -- these universal themes dominate the novel.

***A Prayer for Owen Meany***

John Irving

Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice who has an accident with his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom. It is a sometimes funny, sometimes sad journey that searches through many realms of life. While religion is a component, it serves as more of a factor than the purpose of Owen and Johnny's friendship and silly happenings.