

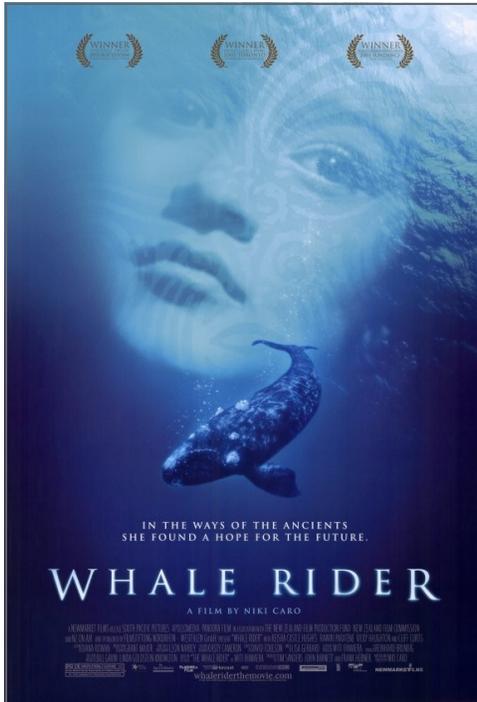
# LOOKING AHEAD

Weekly Newsletter  
Mrs. Patterson's 9th Grade English Class

September 14, 2011

Volume I, Issue I

## Film As Literature



Whale Rider, directed by Niki Caro

This month we will begin a new section featuring film as literature. Yes, we will be watching movies in class! We will learn to

critically “read” film just as we have learned to read books.

Our first class film will be “Whale Rider” by Niki Caro. “Whale Rider” is a drama set in New Zealand about a twelve year old girl who is the only member of her tribe who stands to inherit the role of chief.

When viewing a film, students should pay attention to literary elements such a plot, characters, conflict, point of view, foreshadowing, symbolism, and irony.

Students should pay special attention to non-verbal elements of the film such as clothing, facial expression, touch, gaze, posture, body language, and activity. We will discuss how these and other cinematic elements impact the overall story and inform the gender issues throughout the film.

Additionally, students will examine this film for contrast and conflicts between the Maori and European cultures. Students should spend some time online learning about the Maori prior to viewing the film.

## Book Drive

Clean out your bookshelves, search your closets, and dig under your beds.

It's time again for the annual Central High School book drive. This years donations will be given to families affected by tornados in the state of Alabama. We will be accepting all new books and used

books that are in good condition. Be sure to send in your donations by September 30, 2011.

This year, Mrs. Patterson's students will be in charge of sorting and boxing all of the donated books. If you would like to volunteer to help out with this great project there is a sign-up

sheet outside room 132. Don't forget to note what times you are available to help.



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### Reading List for September

- Twisted, Laurie Halse Anderson
- What We Are, What We See, David Levithan
- Lord of the Flies, William Golden
- Going Bovine, Libba Bray
- Film: The Whale Rider, Niki Caro



## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

### Tuesday Seminars

Central High School will begin a new program this month to help encourage our students to become good online citizens. Each Tuesday a different seminar will be offered to address a variety of important issues including social networking, online communities, cell phone safety, Skype, and more.

Each seminar will include a multimedia presentation with student involvement followed by lively discussions and group activities. Seminars will take place during morning elective periods and afternoon activity/club periods. Students should sign-up in the media

center at least three days in advance. All students will receive extra credit for their media studies portfolio by attending and participating in at least one seminar per month.

The first seminar will be on Cyber Bullying and will include a hands-on virtual simulation to help students learn about bullying with social media.

The second seminar will be about online safety. Students will learn about the importance of protecting personal information online. Common situations such as dating, shopping, gaming, and blogging will be covered.



Students Blogging



Libba Bray

## Guest Author

On September 12, 2011, our class will have the honor of hosting guest author Libba Bray.

Libba Bray is a Southern author of young adult literature. Ms. Bray's books have been on the New York Times Bestseller list and have received numerous awards.

"Going Bovine" by Libba Bray is one of our class's reading selections for this month. This book is considered to be a dark surreal comedy novel. Students should prepare questions for Ms. Bray prior to her appearance.

Awards for Going Bovine

- 2009 Children's Book Sense Pick

- 2009 Publishers Weekly Best Children's Book of the Year
- 2009 Booklist Books for Youth Editors' Choice in 2009.
- 2010 Michael L. Printz Award

### Books by Libba Bray

- A Great and Terrible Beauty
- Rebel Angels
- The Sweet Far Thing
- Going Bovine
- Beauty Queens

# September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 School Pictures	2	3
4	5 Labor Day No School	6 Cyber Bullying Seminar	7	8	9 Individual Response to Twisted	10
11	12 Author Visit: Libba Bray	13	14	15 Parents Night 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20 Online Safety Seminar	21	22	23 <b>Unit Test</b>	24
25	26	27	28 Group Presentations	29 Group Presentations (cont.)	30 Last Day to Donate Books for Book Drive	

Don't Forget to Check the Class Website Daily: [www.pattersonsclass.com](http://www.pattersonsclass.com)



## CONTACT ME

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M-F, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.  
& 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 9/1—School Picture Day—Don't forget to bring your order forms with checks made payable to CHS.
- ◆ 9/6—Cyber Bullying Seminar—Held in the library during morning elective and afternoon activity/club periods.
- ◆ 9/9—Individual Reading Responses Due—These Responses should be submitted as a Word document to online class mailbox by 9:00 a.m. Responses should be complete, free from errors, and 4-6 pages in length.
- ◆ 9/12—Libba Bray Visits— Students should have completed "Going Bovine" and have prepared questions for Ms. Bray.
- ◆ 9/15—Parents Night—We will be showing a video montage of student activities that was written, directed, and produced by students.
- ◆ 9/20—Online Safety Seminar—Held in the library during morning elective and afternoon activity/club periods.
- ◆ 9/23—Unit Test—This will be a cumulative exam of everything we have studied this year. The test will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
- ◆ 9/28-29—Group Presentations— Students should have rehearsed the timing of their presentations so that PowerPoint and audio/video elements are seamlessly incorporated.
- ◆ 9/30—Last day to donate books.