***English IV AP***

**Choice Novel Study – Selection Form Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

During the second semester of this course, students will engage in a Choice Novel Study of various contemporary literary works from culturally diverse authors. To prepare for this unit of study, carefully consider the following six (6) novels. Read the brief description for each work. Then, rank them according to your interest (#1 being your top choice and so on). Final selections will be determined by the teacher to facilitate cooperative group work. If you wish to purchase a copy of the book through the English Department, please indicate such a desire at the very bottom of this document. Please disqualify any novel(s) you have already read.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *Atonement*  by Ian McEwan** – On a summer day in 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses a moment’s flirtation between her older sister, Cecelia, and Robbie Turner, the son of a servant. But Briony’s incomplete grasp of adult motives and her precocious imagination bring about a crime that will change all their lives, a crime whose repercussions the novel follows through the chaos and carnage of World War II and into the close of the twentieth century.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *The Bonesetter’s Daughter* by Amy Tan** – This book deals with the relationship between an American-born Chinese woman and her immigrant mother. The novel is divided into two major stories. The first is about Ruth, a Chinese-American woman living in San Francisco. She worries that her elderly mother, Lu Ling, is gradually becoming more and more senile. Lu Ling seems increasingly forgetful, and makes bizarre comments about her family and her own past. The second major story is that of Lu Ling herself, as written for Ruth. Several years earlier, Lu Ling had written out her life story in Chinese. Ruth arranges to have the document translated, and learns the truth about her mother's life in China.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *No Country for Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy** – Llewellyn Moss finds a pickup truck surrounded by dead men. A load of heroin and two million dollars in cash are still in the back. When Moss takes the money, he sets off a chain reaction of catastrophic violence that not even the law – in the person of aging, disillusioned Sheriff Bell – can contain. As Moss tries to evade his pursuers – in particular a mysterious mastermind who flips coins for human lives – McCarthy encompasses themes as ancient as the Bible and as bloodily contemporary as the morning headlines.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *Sister of My Heart* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni –** The story centers on the lives of two [Indian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) girls, Anju and Sudha, who use their own voices to narrate the story of their lives. In alternating chapters, the reader closely follows the lives of them through childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. Although some of the characters immigrate to the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), most of the story is set in India. Indian traditions and culture are part of the rich environment portrayed in the novel. With strong character development, and several plot twists, *Sister of My Heart* is a story about family, marriage, friendship, and the bond between sisters.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson** – Set on the [fictional](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fictional_location) San Piedro Island in the northern [Puget Sound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puget_Sound) region of the state of [Washington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(U.S._state)) coast in 1954, the plot revolves around a [murder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder) case in which Kabuo Miyamoto, a [Japanese American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_American), is accused of killing Carl Heine, a respected [fisherman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fisherman) in the close-knit community. Much of the story is told in flashbacks explaining the interaction of the various characters over the prior decades. Carl's body had been pulled from the sea, trapped in his own net, on September 16, 1954. The trial, held in December of 1954 during a snowstorm that grips the entire island, occurs in the midst of deep [anti-Japanese sentiments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Japanese_sentiment_in_the_United_States) following [World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II).

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *The Women of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor** – The novel explores the lives of both men and women in an urban setting and examines relationships, both in terms of friendship and romantic love, including homosexual relationships. In each of the seven closely intertwined stories, one or more of the women are involved with the main character of that particular missive. The women of Brewster Place are hard-edged, soft-centered, brutally demanding, and easily pleased. Each of their lives is explored in several short stories which chronicle the ups and downs many women of color face.

***A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini** – Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them - in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul - they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. An incredible chronicle of thirty years of Afghan history and a deeply moving story of family, friendship, faith, and the salvation to be found in love.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like a copy of the novel reserved for me to purchase.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No, I would NOT like a copy of the novel reserved for me and plan to purchase a copy on my own.