

**Ferguson Hall
Summer 2021
Required Summer Reading
for
Incoming Freshmen**

ALL incoming students are REQUIRED to read [Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie](#). This is the book that English teachers will be focusing on at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Students who will be taking Honors English 9 are **also** REQUIRED to read [Great Expectations](#).

[Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie](#), written by David Lubar, has been awarded many positive accolades and ranks high as a recommended young adult novel. The novel, published in 2005, was one of the ALA's top book picks for young adults in 2006.

"Freaks and bullies, classes and crushes, this is high school." The book is about the high school experiences of a fourteen-year-old boy named Scott Hudson. "Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Meanwhile, he's trying his best to capture the attention of Julia, the freshman goddess. In the process, Scott manages to become involved in nearly everything the school has to offer. So while he tries to find his place in the confusing world of high school, win Julia's heart, and keep his sanity, Scott will be recording all the details for his sibling's—and your—enjoyment." (goodreads.com)

The advertised age level for this novel is 12-17. It is most appropriate for 13-15 since the main character of the novel is 14- a high school freshman. This young adult novel is highly praised because of the absence of profanity, sexuality, and many other controversial topics. The author does address the issues of bullying and attempted suicide. However, both topics are addressed thoughtfully and are not graphically depicted. Please refer to chapters 25 and 26 if you have any concerns about the topic of attempted suicide and would like to have conversations with your child to prepare them to process the reading.

Thank you for your understanding and your willingness to encourage your child to read this summer. We want to set our students up for success in the classroom!