



Dear future AP Biology students,

**Welcome to AP Biology.** You have probably heard by now that Biology2/APBiology is both a demanding and a rewarding high school science course. When you finish the course, I am certain you will agree that Biology is a multifaceted, fascinating attempt by humans to understand life! I will do my best to explain the material in class in an engaging way; to design and implement interesting and enlightening laboratories and assignments; and to provide assistance to students who need extra help before and after school. You should expect to spend 4-6 hours per week completing homework assignments, reading, and studying for this course.

I've decided to include a summer reading assignment for **extra credit**, worth 10% of your first semester grade if you choose to do it! The book I've chosen is titled **Your Inner Fish**, authored by Neil Shubin. I chose it after reading the rave reviews it received from AP Biology teachers all over the country who assigned it for summer reading last summer. I bought my paperback copy last night at Barnes and Noble for \$10 (using my membership card and a 15% discount coupon I got through email), and I read it rather than watch the Lakers and Magic game. That says a lot – because I've kept up with the Magic through the playoff series.

Here are some of the reviewer's quotes:

- “A compelling scientific adventure story that will change forever how you understand what it means to be human.” – Oliver Sacks
- “Wonderful....A remarkably readable trip through the deep history of our own bodies.” – The Boston Globe
- “Shubin's simple, passionate writing may turn more than a few high school students into aspiring biologists.” – Nature

To receive your extra credit points, just read the book's 11 chapters and write a detailed summary of the main ideas presented in each chapter. I'm thinking a good detailed summary would constitute at least half a page typed. In all fairness to those who choose to do this assignment, and to keep honest people honest, I'm going to require that you TYPE your summaries and submit them to TurnItIn.com the first week of school.

**JUST READ MENENDEZ**, and have a relaxing and rewarding summer! I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you next year. And call me this summer (471-9404) if you have any questions!

**Respectfully yours,**

*K. Ford*