

9th Grade Summer Novel Reading Assignment – Read directions carefully!

You will be thinking about and writing about a character from the independent novel that you select to read over the summer. You do not have to choose the main character. You will also select one creative option. This assignment is due on the first day of school and will be shared, so COME PREPARED!

We are defined by our actions, words, habits, relationships, vices, beliefs, religion, possessions, upbringing, where we live, mannerisms, hobbies, interests, etc. A good author creates memorable characters that drive the plot - characters who feel real. No matter how good the plot is, without compelling characters, the reader won't be hooked by the novel.

Requirement #1: Write responses to both prompts below.

(Your responses should be three or more paragraphs each, typed or neatly written in ink.)

1. Discuss how your character is developed. How does he or she change or grow over the course of the novel? What events/circumstances prompt these changes? What lessons does your character learn as he or she develops? Are these lessons important to all of us? Why or why not? Provide specific text details (quote the novel) to support your response.
2. How did you relate to your character? In what ways are you alike or different? Make connections between yourself and your chosen character. Use specific examples from the text (quote the novel) and from your life to support the connections you make.

Requirement #2: Choose one of the following creative options.

(This is the “creative” option, so make sure your final product is neat, colorful, and exemplifies your best effort – no lined paper.)

1. Create a Facebook page for a character from your novel (a blank sheet of computer paper is fine). Include all the elements you'd expect to find on a Facebook page - all elements should be text specific.
2. Create a character tissue box.
 - Top: Title, Author, Your Name (leave room for the tissue to be used!)
 - Side 1: Character's name and picture or visual representation of character
 - Side 2: Character's major traits with an example from the novel for support for each
 - Side 3: Other characters and their impact on your character
 - Side 4: Items that are important to your character OR memorable quotes from your character
3. Create a movie poster for your novel including a brief synopsis (without spoiling the ending), the actors who will be playing the parts of the characters in your novel, and visuals representing your novel. Refer to movie posters for inspiration and guidance.

Requirement #3: In addition to the independent novel you choose to read over the summer, you will also read The Pearl, by John Steinbeck. A limited number of copies are available for check-out in the main office at Lamphere High School – please check the website for summer hours. Copies of the novel are also available at your local library, on Kindle (or similar devices), and at bookstores.

During the first week of school, be prepared to discuss the novel as a whole, and be prepared to write an essay responding to the following prompt from the AP Literature and Language Test:

A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. Select a novel (The Pearl, by John Steinbeck) or play and, focusing on one symbol, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

9th Grade Summer Reading List Suggestions (any fictional novel of literary merit is also acceptable)

Fiction:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <u>In the Time of Butterflies</u> | Julia Alvarez |
| <u>The Bean Trees</u> | Barbara Kingsolver |
| <u>The Giver</u> | Lois Lowry |
| <u>In Country</u> | Bobbi Ann Mason |
| <u>Big Mouth, Ugly Girl</u> | Carol Joyce Oates |
| <u>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</u> | Betty Smith |
| <u>Watership Down</u> | Richard Adams |
| <u>The Good Earth</u> | Pearl Buck |
| <u>Ender's Game</u> | Orson Scott Card |
| <u>Saving Cee Cee</u> | Beth Hoffman |
| <u>True Grit</u> | Charles Portis |
| <u>The Help</u> | Kathryn Stockett |
| <u>The Hunger Games</u> | Suzanne Collins |
| <u>Mississippi Trial 1955</u> | Chris Crowe |
| <u>The Book Thief</u> | Markus Zusak |
| <u>Speak</u> | Laurie Halse Anderson |
| <u>Shooting Star</u> | Fredrick L. McKissack Jr. |
| <u>Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of WWII</u> | Joseph Bruchac |