



Summer Reading: Students Entering 9th Grade

Summer Reading Assignment for 2009-2010 School Year

You need to choose one book from the reading list for the grade you are getting ready to enter. You may, of course, read more than one on the list, but you will need to complete the following assignment on one of the books. The assignment will be turned in to your next year's English teacher during the first or second week of school (to be determined by individual teachers). Students may also choose a book that is not one the reading list as long as it is approved by their parent / guardian, is found by searching the website arbookfind.com, is 150 pages long for students grades 4-5, or is two hundred pages long students grades 6-12.

Reading Response Journal

Writing in response to literature can be a great way for students to organize their thoughts, explore what they think, and even to generate ideas. Writing in journals allows students to capture their ideas and to better understand and relate to work of fiction. For your chosen book, you will be completing reading response journal. Use one page per item or question. Answer the following items/questions about your book:

- Summarize what you just read.
- Describe the setting's time and place. Create a new setting that you think would be better for the story and describe it.
- Describe the major conflict. What side are you on? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer)
- Describe the theme (central meaning/message) of your reading.
- How do authors characterize their actors? (Dialogue, direct commentary, actions...) Explain.
- In 4-6 sentences, describe several insights you've gained from your reading.
- Quote a passage & respond to it. How did it make you feel?
- What is the mood of what you're reading (happy, sad, funny, serious, etc.)? Defend your idea.
- What special way did the author write (for example, flashbacks, told in first person, multiple voice narrative, foreshadowing, lost descriptive words that create visual images in your mind, etc.)? Did that make reading it better or worse? Explain.
- What are some things you do when you don't understand what you're reading?

- Feel free to decorate your pages and to make your journal interesting.
- Then, create a cover for your journal. It needs to include the title of the book, the author's name, your name, and a picture of a scene from the book (you may either draw it or make a collage using magazine pictures).

Directions: You need to choose one of the following books to read over the summer, but, of course, you may read more! You will complete an assignment over the book that you have selected. This assignment will be turned in during the first week of the school year.

***A Great and Terrible Beauty* – Libba Bray**

After her mother dies mysteriously in India in 1895, Gemma is sent to a finishing school in England where she becomes aware of her magical powers.

***Whale Talk* – Chris Crutcher**

Led by an athletic loner, members of a high school swim team without a pool improve their times, bond together, and manage to get team jackets over the objections of coaches of the other school sports.

***Hole in My Life* – Jack Gantos**

A compelling personal memoir of a poor boy's dream to be a writer, his entanglements with drugs and prison, and his ultimate success.

***The Secret Life of Bees* – Sue Monk Kidd**

Searching for a connection to her dead mother, Lily leaves her abusive father and finds shelter with a family of African-American sisters.

***Chinese Cinderella* – Adeline Yen Mah**

The author recounts the cruelty she suffered from her stepmother and the callous indifference of her well-to-do father while growing up in China at the end of World War II.

***Fallen Angels* – Walter Dean Myers**

Young American soldiers are soon disillusioned and challenged by the realities of the war in Vietnam.

-Coretta Scott King Award

***Crash* – Jerry Spinelli**

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family