**9th Grade HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING**

8th grade students entering the 9th grade next year must complete all of the activities: 1. Select a novel, read it, and answer the questions provided, 2. complete a visual, and 3. write an essay.

Choose and read ONE of the novels from the list provided below then answer each of the questions on a separate sheet. Copy the questions in one color ink and write the answers in another color.

**NOVELS:**

*Night* by Elie Wiesel

*Silent to the Bone* by E. L. Konigsburg

*Wizards and Witches* by James Patterson

*The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Epic by Conor Kostick

**QUESTIONS:**

1. **Process:** How do you decide what to read? Where and when do you read? How long does it take you to finish a book? What challenges do you face while reading? What might you do differently to improve your reading skills?

2. **Topic:** What is the main focus of the novel?

3. **Setting:** Where and when does the story take place? (Consider the following: time period, date, location, small settings, etc.)

4. **Character Development:** How were the characters’ actions, thoughts, and feelings depicted? Were they believable? Could you identify or relate to any of the characters and explain how?

5. **Main Characters:** Who are they? Provide a brief description (2-3 traits) per character.

6. **Narration:** Who told the story? Is it told in first or third person? Why did the author choose this point of view and how does this shape the telling of the story? Did the author switch between narrators? Explain how.

7. **Credibility:** Are the storyline and characters believable? Could the experiences or challenges faced in the novel be relative to today? Explain an example of this connection

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8. **Suspense:** At any point in the story were you left in suspense wondering what would happen next? Explain.

9. **Action:** Is there enough happening to hold your interest? Too much action and not enough character development?

10. **Dialogue:** Is the talking, or dialogue, realistic? Is there too much or too little dialogue? Was the dialogue difficult to follow? If so, why?

11. **Plot:** How does the storyline flow throughout the novel? Is it fluid and continuous or does it jump around? Explain.

12. **Title:** Does the title act as a true reflection of the novel and its meaning? What would you title the novel if given the opportunity to change it and explain your reasoning?

13. **Theme:** What is the author showing about life and living through the story? What does a reader learn though reading this novel?

14. **Conclusion:** How does the author end the story? Is the ending satisfying? Explain

After reading the novel and answering the questions, choose one of the visuals to complete.

**VISUALS:**

* Create a collage no larger than 11X14 revealing how you see the main character in your book. Attach a separate piece of paper, explaining what you are showing on the collage.
* Create a “wanted poster” for one of the characters in the book. It should include the following a) a drawing of the character or object b) a physical description of the character or object c) what the character or object has done wrong d) other important information e) the reward being offered.
* Create an original song that shows a lesson learned by one of the characters in your book and include an illustration.
* Construct a timeline of 10 major events in the book. Use drawings or magazine cutouts to illustrate events along the timeline.
* Create a complete Facebook profile page for one of the characters in your book. Include a “photo”, friends’ list, likes, status, friend comments, about me section, etc. Include details about your character’s life, the setting, events from the book. Be creative!!
* Design a poster to promote the sale of the book you read. One a separate sheet of paper, include a one paragraph explanation to reveal what you included on the poster.

**ESSAY:**

*“Take a journey to achieve your dream, survive the journey, and you will find your true identity.”*

***Journey***

There are many types of **journeys** one can take in life. They can be internal and lead to a process of self-discovery, or external involving an actual physical journey that might be filled with challenges or obstacles. In a well thought-out essay, identify and discuss either an internal or external journey which the main character of your book experiences.

**Rubric - Your essay should include:**

-An opening paragraph

-Detailed body paragraphs (3)

-Closing paragraph

-Quotes from the text (1-3)

-Proper use of punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure

-The paper MUST be typed using Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 Font,

and double‐spaced

* Make sure that you refer to your rubric for further details to ensure that your essay has met the requirements.

**10th Grade HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING**

9th grade students entering the 10th grade next year must complete all of the activities: 1. Select a novel, read it, and answer the questions provided, 2. write an essay, and 3. complete the visual.

Choose and read ONE of the novels from the list provided below then answer each of the questions on a separate sheet. Copy the questions in one color ink and write the answers in another color.

**NOVELS:**

*Anthem* by Ayn Rand

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

*Childhood's End* by Sir Arthur C. Clarke

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

*Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

**QUESTIONS:**

1. **Process:** How do you decide what to read? Where and when do you read? How long does it take you to finish a book? What challenges do you face while reading? What might you do differently to improve your reading skills?

2. **Topic:** What is the main focus of the novel?

3. **Setting:** Where and when does the story take place? (Consider the following: time period, date, location, small settings, etc.)

4. **Character Development:** How were the characters’ actions, thoughts, and feelings depicted? Were they believable? Could you identify or relate to any of the characters and explain how?

5. **Main Characters:** Who are they? Provide a brief description (2-3 traits) per character.

6. **Narration:** Who told the story? Is it told in first or third person? Why did the author choose this point of view and how does this shape the telling of the story? Did the author switch between narrators? Explain how.

7. **Credibility:** Are the storyline and characters believable? Could the experiences or challenges faced in the novel be relative to today? Explain an example of this connection

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8. **Suspense:** At any point in the story were you left in suspense wondering what would happen next? Explain.

9. **Action:** Is there enough happening to hold your interest? Too much action and not enough character development?

10. **Dialogue:** Is the talking, or dialogue, realistic? Is there too much or too little dialogue? Was the dialogue difficult to follow? If so, why?

11. **Plot:** How does the storyline flow throughout the novel? Is it fluid and continuous or does it jump around? Explain.

12. **Title:** Does the title act as a true reflection of the novel and its meaning? What would you title the novel if given the opportunity to change it and explain your reasoning?

13. **Theme:** What is the author showing about life and living through the story? What does a reader learn though reading this novel?

14. **Conclusion:** How does the author end the story? Is the ending satisfying? Explain

**ESSAY:**

*“Take a journey to achieve your dream, survive the journey, and you will find your true identity.”*

***Dream***

The American **Dream** can be defined as having the opportunity and freedom that allows all citizens to achieve their goals in life through hard work and determination. It is something that many strive for, but do not always achieve. In a well thought-out essay, identify and discuss a character’s dream and how he/or she attempts to achieve it. In the end, is he/she successful? Why or why not?

**Rubric - Your essay should include:**

-An opening paragraph

-Detailed body paragraphs (3)

-Closing paragraph

-Quotes from the text (2-4)

-Proper use of punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure

-The paper MUST be typed using Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 Font,

and double‐spaced

* Make sure that you refer to your rubric for further details to ensure that your essay has met the requirements.

**VISUAL:**

Illustrate an important scene from the book you chose to read. It must have the following:

‐Include the page number where this scene appears.

‐You may draw, cut out pictures, and/or use computer art.

‐You might want to design a collage.

‐Write a 5-7 sentence captions that explains what the illustration is about.

**11th Grade HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING**

10th grade students entering the 11th grade next year must complete all of the activities: 1. Select a novel, read it, and answer the questions provided, 2. complete a visual, and 3. Write an essay.

Choose and read ONE of the novels from the list provided below then answer each of the questions on a separate sheet. Copy the questions in one color ink and write the answers in another color.

**NOVELS:**

*Salem Falls*‐ Jodi Picoult

*As I Lay Dying*‐ William Faulkner

*Gifted Hands*‐ Ben Carso

*The Color of Water‐James* McBride

*Ellen Foster‐Kaye* Gibbons

**QUESTIONS:**

1. **Process:** How do you decide what to read? Where and when do you read? How long does it take you to finish a book? What challenges do you face while reading? What might you do differently to improve your reading skills?

2. **Topic:** What is the main focus of the novel?

3. **Setting:** Where and when does the story take place? (Consider the following: time period, date, location, small settings, etc.)

4. **Character Development:** How were the characters’ actions, thoughts, and feelings depicted? Were they believable? Could you identify or relate to any of the characters and explain how?

5. **Main Characters:** Who are they? Provide a brief description (2-3 traits) per character.

6. **Narration:** Who told the story? Is it told in first or third person? Why did the author choose this point of view and how does this shape the telling of the story? Did the author switch between narrators? Explain how.

7. **Credibility:** Are the storyline and characters believable? Could the experiences or challenges faced in the novel be relative to today? Explain an example of this connection

.

8. **Suspense:** At any point in the story were you left in suspense wondering what would happen next? Explain.

9. **Action:** Is there enough happening to hold your interest? Too much action and not enough character development?

10. **Dialogue:** Is the talking, or dialogue, realistic? Is there too much or too little dialogue? Was the dialogue difficult to follow? If so, why?

11. **Plot:** How does the storyline flow throughout the novel? Is it fluid and continuous or does it jump around? Explain.

12. **Title:** Does the title act as a true reflection of the novel and its meaning? What would you title the novel if given the opportunity to change it and explain your reasoning?

13. **Theme:** What is the author showing about life and living through the story? What does a reader learn though reading this novel?

14. **Conclusion:** How does the author end the story? Is the ending satisfying? Explain

After reading the novel and answering the questions, choose one of the visuals to complete.

**VISUAL:**

* Imagine that you have been given the task of conducting a tour of the town in which the book you read is set. Draw a map and write 3‐4 descriptions of the homes of your characters or the places where important events in the book took place. Be creative!
* Imagine that the book you are reading has been challenged by a special interest group. Write a letter defending the book, using specific evidence from the book to support your ideas.

* Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stone, old toy pieces, or any other object to create your sculpture. Then write an explanation of how this character fits into the book.

* Design an advertising campaign to promote the sale of the book you read. Include each of the following: a poster, a radio or TV commercial, a magazine or newspaper ad, a bumper sticker, and a button.
* Draw a portrait of the main character and write an explanation to accompany your sketch.
* Create an advice column (Dear Abby) and give the characters in the story advice on how to handle their problems/dilemmas.
* As a literary agent, write a letter to the publishing company designed to persuade them to publish this book.
* You are the reporter. Write a front page news story or a report live from the scene.

**ESSAY:**

*“Take a journey to achieve your dream, survive the journey, and you will find your true identity.”*

***Survival***

What does it mean to be a **survivor?** The human spirit is constantly challenged by obstacles such as loss, family tragedy, illness, natural disaster, and even war. In a well thought-out essay, discuss how a character has persevered in handling or overcoming an obstacle using a thesis statement, three supporting points, and a conclusion.

**Rubric - Your essay should include:**

-An opening paragraph

-Detailed body paragraphs (3)

-Closing paragraph

-Quotes from the text (3-6)

-Proper use of punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure

-The paper MUST be typed using Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 Font,

and double‐spaced

* Make sure that you refer to your rubric for further details to ensure that your essay has met the requirements.

**12th Grade HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING**

11th grade students entering the 12th grade next year must complete all of the activities: 1. Select a novel, read it, and answer the questions provided, 2. complete a critique, and 3. the reading quote organizer.

Choose and read ONE of the novels from the list provided below then answer each of the questions on a separate sheet. Copy the questions in one color ink and write the answers in another color.

**NOVELS:**

*Death Be Not Proud* by John Gunther

*Farwell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

*Black Boy* by Richard Wright

*Dreams from My Father*: A story of race and inheritance by Barack Obama

*Brian Piccolo*: *A Short Season* by Jeannie Morris

*Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden

*Forgotten Fire* by Adam Bagdasarian

*Kaffir Boy* by Mark Mathabane

*Please Don’t Kill the Freshman*: A Memoir by Zoe Trope

*Funny in Farsi*- *A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America* by Firoozeh Dumas

*The Soloist* by Steven Lopez

**QUESTIONS:**

1. **Process:** How do you decide what to read? Where and when do you read? How long does it take you to finish a book? What challenges do you face while reading? What might you do differently to improve your reading skills?

2. **Topic:** What is the main focus of the novel?

3. **Setting:** Where and when does the story take place? (Consider the following: time period, date, location, small settings, etc.)

4. **Character Development:** How were the characters’ actions, thoughts, and feelings depicted? Were they believable? Could you identify or relate to any of the characters and explain how?

5. **Main Characters:** Who are they? Provide a brief description (2-3 traits) per character.

6. **Narration:** Who told the story? Is it told in first or third person? Why did the author choose this point of view and how does this shape the telling of the story? Did the author switch between narrators? Explain how.

7. **Credibility:** Are the storyline and characters believable? Could the experiences or challenges faced in the novel be relative to today? Explain an example of this connection

.

8. **Suspense:** At any point in the story were you left in suspense wondering what would happen next? Explain.

9. **Action:** Is there enough happening to hold your interest? Too much action and not enough character development?

10. **Dialogue:** Is the talking, or dialogue, realistic? Is there too much or too little dialogue? Was the dialogue difficult to follow? If so, why?

11. **Plot:** How does the storyline flow throughout the novel? Is it fluid and continuous or does it jump around? Explain.

12. **Title:** Does the title act as a true reflection of the novel and its meaning? What would you title the novel if given the opportunity to change it and explain your reasoning?

13. **Theme:** What is the author showing about life and living through the story? What does a reader learn though reading this novel?

14. **Conclusion:** How does the author end the story? Is the ending satisfying? Explain

**ESSAY:**

*“Take a journey to achieve your dream, survive the journey, and you will find your true identity.”*

***Identity***

In literature a protagonist often experiences a transformation and a search for **identity.** This change often has a lasting effect on him/her. In a well thought-out essay using a thesis statement, three supporting points, and a conclusion, discuss the protagonist's search for self and how he/she transforms throughout the course of the novel.

 **Rubric - Your essay should include:**

-An opening paragraph

-Detailed body paragraphs (3)

-Closing paragraph

-Quotes from the text (3-6)

-Proper use of punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure

-The paper MUST be typed using Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 Font,

and double‐spaced

* Make sure that you refer to your rubric for further details to ensure that your essay has met the requirements.

**READING QUOTE ORGANIZER:**

While you are reading, find at least 8 important quotes that show a relationship between the character and the theme. Choose quotes that show how the character acts, thinks, feels and specific plot events associated with the theme. The quotes do not have to be the actual character’s dialogue and could be part of the narration.

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| **Important Quotes** | **Page #** | **Why is it Important?** |
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