



## Seventh Grade Summer Reading 2010

Dear students:

May 2010

Welcome to Crossroads College Prep! The members of the English Department subscribe to Maya Angelou's belief that reading helps make us who we are. Without books, we are limited to the universe of our own experience; with books, the world is open to us. There is a Chinese Proverb that says: "A book is like a garden carried in the pocket." We would like you to have many gardens in your pockets.

Throughout the school year, we choose the books we feel will enrich you. One of the joys of summer, however, is the freedom to read books of your own choosing. We strongly advocate finding books that interest you and reading avidly every summer. There is no substitute for being a voracious reader!

**We would like you to read at least THREE books this summer.**

**The first book is completely your choice.** Please email me ([Amym@crossroadscollegeprep.org](mailto:Amym@crossroadscollegeprep.org)) by July 15 to tell me what book you read and whether or not you liked the book and why or why not. If you would like some suggestions of books we like, we have attached a list.

Then there are **two required books** for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders and writing assignments on those books below: **The writing assignments below (5 charts) are due on the first day of school!**

- *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place* by E.L. Konigsburg
- Your choice of one of the following eight works:

ADAMS, DOUGLAS *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc.

BAUER, JOAN *Hope Was Here*

Sixteen-year-old Hope and her aunt move to a small town where they become involved in a campaign to force out the corrupt mayor. The story combines suspense, humor, and a bit of romance.

BLOOR, EDWARD *Tangerine*

Twelve-year-old Paul's family revolves around his football-hero brother, failing to notice as Paul fights for the right to play soccer when disqualified by his bad eyesight.

HESSE, KAREN *Witness*

This "novel" is actually a series of poems, with 12 different characters' voices. Although this makes it a little confusing at first, this is a really moving story of the effect when the Ku Klux Klan moves into a small town in Vermont in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

HIASSEN, CARL

*Flush*

Noah's Dad cares about the environment and tries to stop a scummy businessman from polluting the Florida coastal waters, but as a result he ends up in jail. Noah and Abby try to help him.

MEYER, CAROLYN

*White Lilacs*

In 1921 Dillon, Texas, twelve-year-old Rose Lee sees trouble threatening her black community when the whites decide to take their land for a city park.

MIKAELSEN, BEN

*Touching Spirit Bear*

Cole is a juvenile delinquent who needs to learn how to manage his anger after he severely injures a classmate. **Warning:** this book has a couple of violent scenes.

RYAN, PAM MUNOZ

*Esperanza Rising*

Esperanza is forced to leave her life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California.

## WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Each required book has a writing assignment that is **due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school**. Please read the directions carefully. Please e-mail if you have any questions: [amym@crossroadscollegeprep.org](mailto:amym@crossroadscollegeprep.org)

The assignment for *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place* is to fill in the charts below.

**Directions:** While reading, please fill out the following charts. You may wish to look at the assignment before reading the novel so as to keep the writing goals in mind as you go. I gave you an example of what my first line might look like for Margaret Rose.

Character	Choose 4 adjectives that capture essential elements of that person	Quotation that proves the adjective choice is a good one	Analysis of quotation, justifying your choice of adjectives
<u>MARGARET ROSE</u> <u>EXAMPLE</u>	independent	“Gloria told me that if I didn’t hurry, the bus would leave without me, and I said that that was fine with me because I preferred not to go” (46).	This quotation shows that Margaret is independent because she stands her ground on principle, and she does not even let adults push her around when she feels she is in the right. She also speaks her mind freely.
Margaret Rose Kane	Adjective #1	Quotation to prove adjective #1	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation to prove adjective #2	Analysis of adjective #2
	Adjective #3	Quotation to prove adjective #3	Analysis of adjective #3
	Adjective #4	Quotation to prove adjective #4	Analysis of adjective #4

<b>Mrs. Kaplan</b>	<b>3 essential adjectives</b>	<b>Quotation that proves the adjective choice</b>	<b>Analysis of quotation, justifying your choice of adjectives</b>
	Adjective #1	Quotation to prove adjective #1	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation to prove adjective #2	Analysis of adjective #2
	Adjective #3	Quotation to prove adjective #3	Analysis of adjective #3

Jake Kaplan	Adjective #1	Quotation to prove adjective #1	Analysis of adjective #1
	Adjective #2	Quotation to prove adjective #2	Analysis of adjective #2
	Adjective #3	Quotation to prove adjective #3	Analysis of adjective #3





**Creative Assignment:** This assignment will be due the week after classes begin in August, but the chart above is due on the first day of school. The chart will help you prepare for this assignment. If you would like to complete this in the summer, please feel free to do so, or you can wait until it is explained to you more thoroughly after school begins.

Part of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum is independent reading (Reading At Home—RAH). Each month you will choose a book to read, and at the end of the month, you will give a presentation on your book. This will be a miniature version of that monthly assignment. **Choose one of the following five ways to present on your novel to your classmates:**

**Book Jacket:** Design the new cover for the book. You should design a meaningful illustration for the front, and on the back you should provide a brief but tantalizing hint of the plot as well as a few reviews from imaginary literary critics telling us what is so extraordinary about this particular book.

**Poster:** Design the poster that will advertise your book. An effective poster will be colorful and eye-catching, and it will give enough detail to attract potential readers (don't forget to include the title and author's name).

You can also create a multi-dimensional advertisement if you prefer.

**Collage:** Put together magazine images and paste them into an array that reflects the book's themes, characters, and plot. These images must relate in some literal or metaphorical way to the book. For instance, if you have a picture of grapes, a bear, and a kite, the story should either directly (literally) or indirectly (metaphorically) concern all of these items.

**Diorama:** This project entails finding a small box or shoebox and making a 3-D room or representation of the book's characters and setting. For instance, if you were making one for Margaret Rose, you might show her cabin at camp or her room at Schuyler Place.

**Book Review:** You are a well-known journalist with impeccable literary taste. Please tell us why you think this book is a "must read" or a "must avoid". You must give an insightful analysis of some of the literary aspects of the book that impress you or that you find frustrating without giving away too much of the plot. Please consult this source if you are not sure how to write one (but remember it is for college students):  
<http://depts.gallaudet.edu/englishworks/writing/bookreview.html>

There will be two parts to your presentation:

- 1) Your visual project or creative writing (your choice of one of the 5 above)
- 2) Presentation to your classmates—prepare 3 or 4 note cards to use as you introduce your creative work to the class. (Your presentation should be about 2-3 minutes long.)

What you need for the note cards:

<b>Note card 1</b>
Title and Author What kind of story it is (Is it adventure or science fiction or a personal journey?)
<b>Note card 2</b>
-Introduce the main characters -Brief plot set-up Do not tell the whole story, just the first three or four events that start the conflict REMEMBER: Do not give away too much of the plot because you might inspire one of your classmates to read this book, and you want him or her to be surprised.
<b>Note card 3</b>
Present your project: explain what you were trying to capture in your visual or read a section of your book review.
<b>Note card 4</b>
-Your evaluation: Did you like the book? Why or why not? Would you recommend the book? (again, try not to give away too much of the excitement in the plot because you could spoil it for someone else.)