

Summer Reading 2010

Dear students entering 9th grade:

You will enter World Literature next fall. We believe wholeheartedly that literature is both *informational* and *transformational*. Reading not only enriches your life by giving you information, but it also changes the way you think.

That change begins now.

Before you return to school, you need to read three books and complete some writing about each one.

1) We are asking you to read **at least one book**—fiction or non-fiction—on your own this summer. We would love to hear that you read 8 books for pleasure, but we are only requiring you to read one to tell us about.

For this book, please **choose one of the three assignments listed below**; this assignment is **due to me by July 15**.

We have chosen **two books** that will begin the class discussion about the hero's journey when you return in August. In addition to completing the assignment outlined below, please take notes during your reading, so you can recall the details and themes of the texts. You will spend the first few weeks of school working on these texts, so read them thoughtfully and thoroughly.

2) All ninth grade students need to **read *Ender's Game*** by Orson Scott Card.

3) In addition, each student must **choose one of the following books**:

- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien is a tale of danger and adventure in a fantasy world called Middle Earth.
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie portrays the struggles of a young man to understand his identity.
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Susan Monk Kidd relates a girl's journey to find herself and her mother.
- *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White is a modern retelling of the King Arthur story; the first section served as the basis for Disney's movie *The Sword in the Stone*.

Please choose a book that you have not already read, and use *only the text* as the basis of your analysis. Do not start the year by trying to take the easy way out through collaborating with others or using other resources.

***** If you have already read *Ender's Game*, please choose two from the above list to read.**

Please contact Anne at (314) 721-4521 or Anne@crossroadscollegeprep with any questions.

All students entering our 9th grade need to have learned the Latin bases in Lessons 1-14 in *Everyday Words from Classic Origins* as well as a few vocabulary words for each base. The book is available from Lisa Straub in the front office (367-8085 X 203). Every student needs one.

Have a great summer and enjoy your reading!

Assignment for your free choice book (you may read fiction or non-fiction)

Choose **one** of the following three assignments and either email it to me anne@crossroadscollegeprep.org by **July 15** or mail it to school:

Crossroads College Prep
Attn: Anne Nightingale
500 DeBaliviere Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63112

I will then send it on to your teacher.

1) Compose a letter to the author:

You may politely inquire about aspects of the book you found puzzling, you might warmly commend him or her on parts of the book you found riveting, and / or you may talk about some of the important information you learned or the ideas the book prompted you to think about. (If your letter is really thoughtful and well written, we could actually work on sending it to the author.)

2) Diary entries: Pick a character who you feel you have begun to know well, then choose three of the important scenes in the book and compose a diary entry that you can imagine that character could have written for each event. Try to write in the voice of the character as it comes through in the work.

3) Facebook Page:

You could create a Facebook page for the central character:

You certainly will want to include:

a picture

a profile, status, and info (likes and interests) for your character

groups your character would belong to

a list of friends

some messages your character might have written to certain friends

and anything else you think your character might have on his or her page

Assignment for *Ender's Game*

Complete the following questions fully and legibly. You may type or write this assignment. Please also remember to take notes during your reading so you can recall the details and themes of the texts. This sheet is available on the summer reading site: <http://sites.crossroadscollegeprep.org/summerreading/>

Book Title: *Ender's Game*

Author: Orson Scott Card

Please follow the numbering below on the paper you write or type.

HELPFUL HINT: Filling out this information as you read is so much easier than going back and finding it after you have finished the novel.

1. Describe Ender:
 - a) physically (write down the quotation and page number)
 - b) find **three quotations** that show ways in which he behaves that give us insight into his character (with page numbers)
 - c) analyze what each quotation you found for b) demonstrates about him
2. What does Ender do that makes him seem heroic?
 - a) Provide **at least three specific examples** with quotations and page numbers.
 - b) Please explain what characteristics of a hero you associate with each example you have given.
3. For what is Ender looking? What is the purpose/goal of his quest? (This response should be many sentences long, and you should keep adding to it as Ender's perception of his quest changes over time.)
4. Describe Ender's hesitation/fears at the beginning of the quest.
Why does he determine to proceed?
5. Describe the first obstacle that Ender must overcome.
How does he feel about the obstacle?
How does he decide to respond to it?
6.
 - a) Identify and describe **three challenges** that Ender meets and overcomes.
 - b) How does Ender respond to each?
7. In what ways does Ender change and grow as a result of these continuing obstacles?
 - a) Find **at least three quotations** that show either his changing awareness of himself and his situation or that prove to you that he is growing and analyze them.
8. Explain how Ender finally attains his goal. How does he feel about this achievement?
Is any other feeling mixed with this sense of accomplishment?
9. What was your impression of the book? Would you recommend it to others?
Explain why or why not.

Assignment for your choice book

Complete the following questions fully and legibly. You may type or write this assignment. **Please also remember to take notes during your reading so you can recall the details and themes of the texts.** This sheet is available on the summer reading site:
<http://sites.crossroadscollegeprep.org/summerreading/>

Your choice book title:

Author:

Please follow the numbering below on the paper you write or type.

HELPFUL HINT: Filling out this information as you read is so much easier than going back and finding it after you have finished the novel.

1. Describe your hero or heroine:
 - a) physically (write down the quotation and page number)
 - b) find **three quotations** that show ways in which he or she behaves that give us insight into his or her character (with page numbers)
 - c) analyze what each quotation you found for b) demonstrates about him or her
2. What does your hero do that makes him or her seem heroic?
 - a) Provide **at least three specific examples** with quotations and page numbers.
 - b) Please explain what characteristics of a hero you associate with each example you have given.
3. For what is your hero or heroine looking? What is the purpose/goal of his or her quest? (This response should be many sentences long, and you should keep adding to it as your hero's perception of his or her quest changes over time.)
4. Describe your hero or heroine's hesitation/fears at the beginning of the quest. Why does he or she determine to proceed?
5. Describe the first obstacle that your hero or heroine must overcome. How does he or she feel about the obstacle? How does he or she decide to respond to it?
6.
 - a) Identify and describe **three challenges** that your hero or heroine meets and overcomes.
 - b) How does he or she respond to each?
7. In what ways does your hero or heroine change and grow as a result of these continuing obstacles?
 - a) Find **at least three quotations** that show either his or her changing awareness of himself or herself and his or her situation or that prove to you that he or she is growing and analyze them.
8. Explain how your hero or heroine finally attains his or her goal. How does he or she feel about this achievement? Is any other feeling mixed with this sense of accomplishment?
9. What was your impression of the book? Would you recommend it to others? Explain why or why not.

Dear New 9th Grade students and parents:

The following information is intended to help you choose your summer reading book. All of them have thematic elements that will connect directly to the texts you will encounter next year. They are diverse in length, style, and content. They are listed in order of least challenging to most challenging.

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie introduces us to Arnold Spirit, who lives on a Spokane Indian reservation, but he does not fit in. When a teacher convinces him to change schools, he has to try to figure out who he is and what he values most. This book looks at community, identity, friendship, and many other struggles that every teen must face. 240 pages
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Susan Monk Kidd relates a girl's journey to find herself and her mother. Kidd portrays the vicious realities of race relations in the 1960s South, the power of community, and the importance of finding out the truth for oneself. A book that explores femininity and communities of women as well as African-American culture and racial cooperation, *The Secret Life of Bees* is appropriate for almost all readers in content; it is also widely read and was released as a major film last October. 330 pages
- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien is a classic adventure story. This perennially popular story of Bilbo, the hobbit, who wants to stay at home in his comfortable hole, shows how Bilbo eventually becomes a hero almost in spite of himself. Inspired by old Scandinavian legends of dragons and powerful creatures, *The Hobbit* is filled with different types of animals and beings who Bilbo and the dwarves meet on their mission. 320 pages
- *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White is a very approachable modern version of the King Arthur myth, one of the most popular stories in Western literature. Similar in tone to the Harry Potter series but more challenging in both theme and style, the novel provides a fresh perspective on a classic story while also tying in nicely to the major themes of 9th grade English. This book is appropriate for all readers; though its length might intimidate some, those who have enjoyed J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and/or J.K. Rowling will probably love this book. 639 pages, but worth every one

All of these are popular, well-regarded texts that are generally reading-level and age-appropriate. Each ties into one or several of themes we will discuss in class, and each will hopefully provide an interesting, insightful, and rewarding reading experience this summer.