

Congratulations on accepting the challenge of completing a college level course during your junior year of high school. I commend you for your initiative and commitment to academic excellence. To keep you on your literary toes over the summer, to fulfill county mandated requirements, and to prepare for the fall, please complete the following assignment.

**AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment:** Choose one of the following works that you have not previously read or studied.

*\*The Catcher in the Rye*

*\*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

*\*A Prayer for Owen Meany*

*\*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

*The Goldfinch*

*This Side of Paradise*

*\*The Bluest Eye*

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

\*Signifies that we have copies of these texts available for checkout from the English Department. The rest of the texts are in plentiful supply at our school and local libraries.

**Reader Response Journal:** You will use the following prompts to complete **twenty entries** while reading your selected text. This journal may be completed on paper or in digital form, but all twenty entries are to be submitted together (not in separate documents; all papers stapled together as one submission). **This assignment is due on the first day of class.** When responding, please make sure to identify which prompt you are addressing, and always make sure to cite your page numbers according to MLA standards when making direct textual references.

1. **Reactions and Impressions:** Record these after your first reading. These can be in any form—free writing, notes, lists, stream of consciousness, etc. Reflect and comment on why you feel as you do about specific items in the literature— characters, ideas, or any other significant element. Wait a while and read the selection again; what do you think now? Add to the reaction.
2. **Quote:** Choose a line, phrase or word that has some significant meaning for you from the piece. Focus on noteworthy dialogue or some insightful sentence. Choose several lines in the piece if appropriate—discuss your selection as it relates to your views or application to real life. Make some connections and decisions about these quotations.
3. **Vocabulary:** Highlight words that need interpretation, interest you, or are apparently significant word choices by the author. Highlight words that make you wonder! Find the definition of the words and discuss further thoughts on why the word was selected or how it relates to the meaning of the piece.
4. **Questions:** Pose a few thoughtful questions about the reading that require further analysis, definition, or clarification. What questions do you need answers to immediately? Are there unresolved questions? What are your hypotheses?
5. **Commentary:** Make some honest comments about the subject, characters, actions, events, or connections the piece suggests. This might be criticisms of the writer or the behavior of the characters or the style of writing. Do your remarks reveal something you can discuss further? Why are you bothered or thrilled by what you've read?
6. **Compelling Writing:** Record an example of powerful writing. Why might your selection qualify as lines worthy to remember? The line(s) can be brilliant or shocking or confusing. What more can you say about your selection?

Along with your Reader Response Journal, you will be writing an essay on your selected book during the first week of class. I highly encourage you to take notes, plan, and complete initial drafts over the summer.

**Essay Assignment:**

Write an essay based on your selected novel. Your essay should be 2-3 typed pages, 12 point Times New Roman Font, and double spaced with 1 inch margins. In composing this essay, make sure to: include multiple textual references, write in the present and active voice, and follow the conventions of standard academic English.

**Prompt:** A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist of a bildungsroman. Then write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole. In doing this, you should:

- a. Focus on a singular moment in the development of the protagonist
- b. Analyze how that moment shows his psychological or moral development
- c. Connect this moment to the overall theme of the novel

Once again, thank you for accepting the challenge of a college level course. I am looking forward to our year together, and I am excited about the experiences you are going to have with your selected books. Feel free to read more than one of the suggested texts. Also feel free to contact me in regards to additional book recommendations or readings that will further prepare you for our work in AP Language and Composition.

\*In order to conveniently communicate over the course of the summer, please register for the class Remind

Text this message: @49g927

Send message to this number: 81010

Also, feel free to contact me via email at [timothy.jarman@nhcs.net](mailto:timothy.jarman@nhcs.net)