



Summer Reading: Students Entering 11th 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 five journal entries. Here is what you need to do:

- Split your book into five equally sized parts. For each of these parts you will write one journal entry (explained below).
- For each entry you will need to have one sheet of paper – total of five sheets of paper.
- Fold each sheet of paper in half long-wise or draw a straight line down the middle.
- On the right hand side of the paper, write a short summary (at least one or two paragraphs that explain what happened in the section – make sure to have something from the beginning, the middle, and the end of your section).
- On the left hand side you will respond to your summary. You may want to write about how you feel about what you have read, other topics it may have made you think about, experiences you may have had that were similar those experienced within the book. Some sentence starters are (you may answer more than one of these per section):
 - If I were the character...
 - A quote I liked or reacted to strongly is...
 - This reminds me of...
 - I predict...
 - This line is interesting/challenging/puzzling because...
 - I now understand why/how/what ...
 - I was surprised by...
 - Some questions I have are...
 - I'm confused about...

- Complete one of these entries for each of the five sections of your book.
- 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.

Agee, James. *A Death in the Family*. First published: 1957. Fiction

The story of a family for the first few days after the accidental death of the 35-year-old husband and father

*Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.)

*Pulitzer Prize 04/01/58

Alexie, Sherman. *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* *C c1994. Short Stories

This collection of short stories captures the determination of contemporary life on the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Buck, Pearl. *The Good Earth*. First published: 1931. Fiction

The story of a Chinese peasant and his passionate, dogged accumulation of land during famine, drought, and revolution.

*Books for the Teen Age (NYPL)

*Pulitzer Prize for fiction, 1932

Camus, Albert. *The Stranger*. First published: 1946. Fiction

Caught in the grip of forces he does not understand, a quiet, ordinary clerk in Algiers commits a murder.

Conrad, Joseph. *Lord Jim*. First published: 1900. Fiction, Classic

A man who has been branded a coward earns the respect of the Malay people.

*Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.)

Crane, Stephen. *Red Badge of Courage*. First published: 1895. Historical Fiction

During his service in the Civil War, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.

*Books for the Teen Age (NYPL)

Dickens, Charles. *Hard Times*. First published: 1854. Fiction, Classic

Relates the experiences of a variety of characters struggling in nineteenth-century industrial England.

Du Maurier, Daphne. *Rebecca*. First published: 1938. Fiction

For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca de Winter continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, one of the most famous English country houses.

*Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.)

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. *M First Published: 1925 Fiction, Classic

Tells the tragic love story of Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan, a dashing, enigmatic millionaire obsessed with an elusive, spoiled young woman.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. c1995. Fiction

The rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo as told through the history of the Buendia family.

Guterson, David. *Snow Falling on Cedars*. *C c1994. Fiction

An award winning tale of love and murder. In 1954 the murder of a local fisherman on an isolated island in Puget Sound stirs up memories of World War II, and the internment of the island's Japanese population. Ishmael Chambers is the reporter who covers the story of the accused-a man who married the Japanese girl Ishmael had once loved.

PEN/Faulkner Award

Hesse, Herman. *Demian*. First published: 1925. Fiction

Young, docile Emil Sinclair heads down the road to destruction when he rebels against convention, gets involved in the world of petty crime, and discovers his new powers for good and evil.

Kelly, Thomas. *Empire Rising*. c.2005 Historical fiction.

Set in the backdrop of the Empire State Building in 1930, Irish-born construction worker Michael Briody is torn between making a living in America and his loyalty for the Irish Republican cause and finds himself caught in the middle of the Tammany Hall political machine within the New York underworld.

Malamud, Bernard. *The Assistant*. First published: 1957. Fiction

Malamud's classic 1957 story of a young Gentile hoodlum who works at a family-owned Jewish grocery store in exchange for a place to stay. What the family doesn't know is that he was one of the boys responsible for a previous robbery of their store..

McCullers, Carson. *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. First published: 1940. Fiction

A deaf mute who has lost his only friend to a hospital for the insane becomes the recipient of the confidences of several other town residents.

*Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.)

Momaday, Scott. *House Made of Dawn*. *C c1996. Historical Fiction

The story of a young American Indian named Abel, home from a foreign war and caught between the world of his father, with the rhythm of the seasons and the harsh beauty of the land, and the world of industrial America.

Pulitzer Prize 1969

Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*. First published 1948. Fiction

Accused of murdering a white man, a young black South African turns to his minister father and a white attorney for help, but the racial problems of the country prevent justice from being served.

*Books for the Teen Age (NYPL)

*Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.)

Tan, Amy. *The Kitchen God's Wife*. c1991. Fiction

A Chinese immigrant, convinced she is dying wants to unburdening herself of secrets she has kept for more than 50 years. When she reveals the story of her life, her American born daughter finally understands her mother's many quirks and superstitions.

Tolkien, J.R. *The Two Towers*. . c1965. Fiction, Fantasy

The second part of J. R. R. Tolkien's classic fantasy novel "The Lord of the Rings," in which Frodo and Sam journey down the River Anduin--followed by a mysterious creeping figure--on their quest to protect the Ruling Ring from the Dark Lord until it can be destroyed.