

Summer Reading 2017 - 9th Grade American Literature

The teachers of West Shore Christian Academy believe it is important for students to continue to work on acquiring, maintaining and improving reading and analysis skills through the summer months as well as appreciating literature and reading for personal enjoyment. To that end, the teachers in the English department have put together the following list of required titles for grade 9. Students are to complete the assigned reading and the essay assignment that corresponds to their class, due the first Monday class of school.

There will also be a short-answer test for the books on the first Friday of school.

Non-honors - choose ONE BOOK from the list below

Honors - Choose TWO BOOKS (one classic and one contemporary) from the list below

- 1) ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***, Mark Twain (classic)
- 2) ***My Antonia***, Willa Cather (classic)
- 3) ***Of Mice and Men***, John Steinbeck (classic)
- 4) ***The Chosen***, Chaim Potok (classic)
- 5) ***The Call of the Wild***, Jack London (classic)
- 6) ***The Old Man and the Sea***, Ernest Hemingway (classic)
- 7) ***A Wrinkle in Time***, Madeleine L'Engle (classic)
- 8) ***I, Robot***, Isaac Asimov (classic)
- 9) ***Billy Budd***, Herman Melville (classic)
- 10) ***Their Eyes Were Watching God***, Zora Neal Hurston (classic)
- 11) ***The Secret Life of Bees***, Sue Monk Kidd (contemporary)
- 12) ***Seabiscuit***, Laura Hillenbrand (contemporary)
- 13) ***Ender's Game***, Orson Scott Card (contemporary)
- 14) ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***, Sherman Alexie (contemporary)
- 15) ***The Hunger Games***, Suzanne Collins (contemporary)
- 16) ***Eragon***, Christopher Paolini (contemporary)
- 17) ***City of Ember***, Jeanne DuPrau (contemporary)
- 18) ***Maze Runner***, James Dashner (contemporary)
- 19) ***The Giver***, Lois Lowry (contemporary)
- 20) ***Hoot***, Carl Hiaasen (contemporary)

Summer Reading Assignment

Choose one of the following writing prompts below. When you are finished reading the book(s), write an essay that meets the following guidelines:

- 1000 words minimum
- Times New Roman
- Size 12 font
- 1 inch margins
- Double spaced
- Must include: introduction, body, conclusion, thesis statement, 5 quotes from the novel(s)

*(*Honors students* - You are still only writing one essay. Choose one prompt below and incorporate both novels into the essay)*

Prompts:

1. One of the most revealing types of conflict occurs when a character's inner struggles are resolved at great personal price. Often, the character learns a lesson, but too late to help himself or another character. Explain how, in the work that you read, a character struggles but fails to learn a lesson in time, and thus, serves as an example for the reader. In your essay, focus on the conflict within the character. Be sure to include the price paid as part of the resolution and the lesson to be learned.
2. Often in literary works, authors choose a physical object which takes on a special significance in the work and becomes a symbol of something beyond itself. Show how, in the work that you read, the author uses a symbol to convey an important meaning. In your essay, focus on the symbol and what it symbolizes. Be sure to discuss how the author uses it to convey a message to readers. You may choose three important symbols from the novel, or you may choose to elaborate on one symbol in all three body paragraphs.
3. Authors often use descriptive details to develop a setting for several purposes. In an essay, explain how the setting of your book related to events from the plot, related to characters, or built suspense. You may write one body paragraph about each aspect of setting, or you may chose to elaborate on one particular aspect (plot, character, suspense) in all three body paragraphs.
4. What is the theme of the novel? In your introduction, state the theme of the novel. In your thesis, explain how the theme is developed. In your body paragraphs, give specific examples of scenes from the novel in which the author developed the theme.

