



Summer Reading: Students Entering 10th 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 on 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 reading response journal. Use one page per item or question. Answer the following items/questions about your book:

- Summarize what you just read.
- Describe the setting's time and place. Create a new setting that you think would be better for the story and describe it.
- Describe the major conflict. What side are you on? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer)
- Describe the theme (central meaning/message) of your reading.
- How do authors characterize their actors? (Dialogue, direct commentary, actions...) Explain.
- In 4-6 sentences, describe several insights you've gained from your reading.
- Quote a passage & respond to it. How did it make you feel?
- What is the mood of what you're reading (happy, sad, funny, serious, etc.)? Defend your idea.
- What special way did the author write (for example, flashbacks, told in first person, multiple voice narrative, foreshadowing, lost descriptive words that create visual images in your mind, etc.)? Did that make reading it better or worse? Explain.
- What are some things you do when you don't understand what you're reading?

- 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.

Adams, Richard. *Watership Down*. c1972.

Fantasy.

Hazel and Fiver, wild rabbits, are turned out of their warren and must find a new home. The story of the dangers they encounter and the obstacles they overcome as they search for Watership Down make an amazing adventure filled with characters who will stay in your memory long after you close the book.

A top 10 pick by Jennifer Hurbert at *Reading Rants*.

Boule, Pierre. *Bridge Over the River Kwai*. c. 1954.

Fiction

A British colonel in a Japanese prison camp builds a bridge with prison labor, and he warns the Japanese when commandos from his own side arrive to blow up the bridge.

Burns, Olive. *Cold, Sassy Tree*. c 1984.

Historical Fiction

Grandpa Blakeslee marries a young milliner just three weeks after Granny Blakeslee has gone to her reward. Young Will is boggled by this act but becomes the newlyweds' conspirator and confidant; meanwhile he does some growing up on his own.

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

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*. First published: 1918.

Fiction, Classic

A New York lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with a simple Bohemian girl.

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

Delany, Sarah & Elizabeth. *Having Our Say*. c.1993.

Biography

Chronicles the experiences of two African-American women growing up in North Carolina at the turn-of-the-century.

Kinsella, W.P. *Shoeless Joe*. Houghton Mifflin, c1982.

Fiction

Shoeless Joe is about myth, magic, the power of dreams and baseball. From the first time Ray hears a voice whisper "If you build it, he will come", his life is changed. He follows his heart and his dream, and finds the piece of him that was missing.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air*. c1997.

Nonfiction

The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

*An ALA Notable/Best Book

*Books for the Teen Age (NYPL)

Malamud, Bernard. *The Natural.* First published: 1952.

Fiction

Gifted baseball player Roy Hobbs, his career derailed by a youthful indiscretion, makes a stunning comeback in later life, but finds himself still struggling against the temptations that would bring him to ruin.

McCullers, Carson. *Member of the Wedding.* First published 1946.

Fiction

Frankie Addams, a motherless twelve-year-old raised by her father and the family's African-American cook, struggles with conflicting feelings about her brother's upcoming wedding.

Swift, Johathan. *Gulliver's Travels.* First published: 1726

Fiction, Classic

Gulliver journeys to Lilliput, an imaginary land where the people are very tiny and to Brobdingnag, a land where the people are giants

Tolkien, J.R. *Fellowship of the Rings.* First published: 1954.

Fiction, Fantasy

Frodo the hobbit and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power before the evil Sauron grasps control.

*Books for the Teen Age (NYPL)

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