



## **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 on the reading list as long as it is approved by their parent / guardian, is found by searching the website [arbookfind.com](http://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.**

**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.