

St. Joseph Central Catholic High School

Summer 2015 Reading List – Grade 9

Required Reading: “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak.

ALL incoming freshmen must read this book and be prepared to take a test on it the first week of school.

Selected Reading: All incoming freshmen are required to read at least one book from the selected reading list provided.

Summer Selected Reading Assignment

*You may not use Spark Notes or any other similar internet/book source for the completion of this assignment. This includes copying directly, paraphrasing or just getting ideas from such a source. If this is done, it will result in a zero on the assignment and a meeting with the honor committee. This is supposed to be your original work; not the work of a published English professional. These are your ideas and thoughts.

Directions: Complete this assignment for your selected reading book. The assignment is due on the first day of school. If you turn it in late, you will lose 5% off of your total grade for every day it is late. I will not accept the assignment after three days. There is also an option for some extra credit.

Complete each of the following 2 sections. They must be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font with 1 inch margins. Do not type your name on the first page. Type it on a cover page.

1. (50%) As you read the book, complete at least **5 reader’s responses**. Your responses should not include plot summary. Assume I wrote the book, so you don’t need to fill me in on it. Responses should include, but are not limited to, ideas such as: characterization (how characters evolve throughout the book), themes (larger ideas the author is trying to express/how the book relates to life), the author’s talent/craft, use of literary techniques (symbolism, irony, foreshadowing, plot twists, figurative language, etc...), and the like. In addition, you may also comment on something specific that you like or dislike about the book. Think of it as a journal that you are keeping as you read. Your responses should be written in sentence form and include **a minimum of 5 sentences each**. Although these must be typed when turned in, feel free to respond in a notebook or on post-it notes as you read and then later type these thoughts.

2. (50%) Identify what you feel are the **5 most important passages** from the book or **5 passages you like the best**. This could be for a number of reasons: character development, well written prose/dialogue, theme development, symbolism, etc. The passage may be a phrase, sentence, or group of sentences/piece of dialogue. For each of the passages, write out the full passage with appropriate quotation marks and page citation. After the passage, analyze its importance to the book as a whole. Again, do not summarize the plot but give an analysis that explains why this passage is important to understanding the work as a whole. Or, write why you like it. **Each analysis should be a minimum of 5 sentences**. I suggest you keep track of passages as you read which could possibly end up as a final choice. This way, when you finish, you can just glance back at the passages you selected and choose the 5 most important/best.

***Extra Credit Option*:** Do the same assignment for your required reading book.

(See other sheet for a list of Selected Reading Books)

SELECTED READING BOOKS

All Quiet on the Western Front
Slaughterhouse Five
A Separate Peace
A Lesson Before Dying
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
I Never Promised You a Rose Garden
Fahrenheit 451
White Fang
Fellowship of the Ring
In Country
The Kite Runner
The Pearl
Our Town
Fast Food Nation
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Angela's Ashes
My Sister's Keeper
Winter Girls
Gulliver's Travels
Tuesdays with Morrie
Across Five Aprils
The Comedy of Errors
King Lear
Titus Andronicus
A Thousand Splendid Suns

Erich Maria Remarque
Kurt Vonnegut Jr.
John Knowles
Ernest Gaines
Maya Angelou
Mark Twain
Joanne Greenberg
Ray Bradbury
Jack London
JRR Tolkien
Bobbie Ann Mason
Khaled Hosseini
John Steinbeck
Thornton Wilder
Eric Schlosser
Betty Smith
Frank McCourt
Jodi Picoult
Laurie Halse Anderson
Jonathan Swift
Mitch Album
Irene Hunt
William Shakespeare
William Shakespeare
William Shakespeare
Khaled Hosseini