

# St. Joseph Central Catholic High School

## Summer 2016 Reading List

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Required Reading:** *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

- All incoming freshmen are required to 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 below. You must choose a book you have not read before. Attached is a written assignment you must complete and hand in on the first day of school for the book you choose. No late work will be accepted.

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|---|-----------------------|
| • <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>     | Erich Maria Remarque  |
| • <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>                | Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.    |
| • <i>A Separate Peace</i>                   | John Knowles          |
| • <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>              | Ernest Gaines         |
| • <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>    | Maya Angelou          |
| • <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>       | Mark Twain            |
| • <i>I Never Promised You a Rose Garden</i> | Joanne Greenberg      |
| • <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>                     | Ray Bradbury          |
| • <i>White Fang</i>                         | Jack London           |
| • <i>Fellowship of the Ring</i>             | JRR Tolkien           |
| • <i>In Country</i>                         | Bobbie Ann Mason      |
| • <i>The Kite Runner</i>                    | Khaled Hosseini       |
| • <i>The Pearl</i>                          | John Steinbeck        |
| • <i>Our Town</i>                           | Thornton Wilder       |
| • <i>Fast Food Nation</i>                   | Eric Schlosser        |
| • <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>           | Betty Smith           |
| • <i>Angela's Ashes</i>                     | Frank McCourt         |
| • <i>My Sister's Keeper</i>                 | Jodi Picoult          |
| • <i>Wintergirls</i>                        | Laurie Halse Anderson |
| • <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>                 | Jonathan Swift        |
| • <i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>               | Mitch Albom           |
| • <i>Across Five Aprils</i>                 | Irene Hunt            |
| • <i>The Comedy of Errors</i>               | William Shakespeare   |
| • <i>King Lear</i>                          | William Shakespeare   |
| • <i>Titus Andronicus</i>                   | William Shakespeare   |
| • <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>           | Khaled Hosseini       |

# Summer Selected Reading Assignment

\*You MAY NOT use SparkNotes 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 Romans 12pt. 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-its as you read and then later transfer these thoughts to a word processor.
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.