St. Joseph Central Catholic High School
Summer 2017 Reading List
Freshmen: English 9 (Instructor: Mrs. Messinger)

Part I - Required Reading: "*The Book Thief*" by Markus Zusak

All freshmen are required to read this book. As you read, pay close attention to the main characters and the main events. You will take a test on this book the first week of school.

Selected Reading: All freshmen are required to read at least one book from the selected reading list below. You must choose a book you have not ever read before.

Attached is a written assignment you must complete and hand in on the first day of school for the book you choose from the list below.

SELECTED READING BOOKS

All Quiet on the Western Front	Erich Maria Remarque
Slaughterhouse Five	Kurt Vonnegut Jr.
A Separate Peace	John Knowles
A Lesson Before Dying	Ernest Gaines
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain
I Never Promised You a Rose Garden	Joanne Greenberg
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury
White Fang	Jack London
Fellowship of the Ring	JRR Tolkein
In Country	Bobbie Ann Mason
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini
The Pearl	John Steinbeck
Our Town	Thornton Wilder
Fast Food Nation	Eric Schlosser
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Betty Smith
Angela's Ashes	Frank McCourt
My Sister's Keeper	Jodi Picoult
Winter Girls	Laurie Halse Anderson
Gulliver's Travels	Jonathan Swift
Tuesdays with Morrie	Mitch Album
Across Five Aprils	Irene Hunt T
The Comedy of Errors	William Shakespeare
King Lear	William Shakespeare
Titus Andronicus	William Shakespeare
A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khaled Hosseini

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Part II - Selected Reading Assignment

The intention of this assignment is to help you improve the important skill of interacting with a text as you read. You will record annotations that account for and correspond with each individual page of the selected text you read. You may handwrite the information; use loose-leaf paper (if handwritten); if typed, you must punch holes in each sheet; Your project must be put in a 1" 3-ring binder—nothing larger. You will lose points if you do not put the project in the 3 ring binder.

You must write at least two complete sentences of original thought per page of text that you read. However, you should not feel restricted by this minimal requirement: jot down your ideas, feelings, questions, and mental connections to other things in your own world whenever you read an intriguing bit of text. THIS IS NOT A BOOK REPORT.

How to Annotate:
Use the below prompts to help inspire your annotation journal entries. You MUST change these up; you CANNOT use the same one consecutively (i.e., back-to-back).
Notice and comment upon a literary device - simile, metaphor, alliteration, repetition, irony, symbolism, etc. What effect does it create for you?

Discuss a part that is confusing to you.

Ask the author a question about a passage.

Jot down any connections to other texts, movies, or historic/current events that your notice. Is the author alluding to something else? If so, discuss this.

Explain the moments of emotional impact. How are you feeling? Is this what the author hoped you would feel? How did the author create this feeling in you?

Why did the author phrase a passage in a particular way? What is the effect of the word choice?

Do you agree or disagree with an idea being presented? Why?

When you encounter a word that you don't know, look it up in the dictionary and write down its definition.

Discuss your changing feelings toward specific characters. What's caused this shift?

Describe what's missing in the text. What do you wish the author had included?

Use your inference skills. Is the author using a passage or relationship to try to tell you something deeper than what is being said directly?

Does the text remind you of anything in your own life? Discuss.

How to Format: On the first page of your binder please include the following: Your name, English 9, Book Title, Author, Publisher, Edition (if applicable), total number of pages.

*For each annotation entry, you must write the page number along with your sentence entries (remember: a minimum of two sentences per entry)

*You may put several annotation entries on one sheet as long as they are separated by the Page Number .

Check out these models of what to do – and what not to do:

DO THIS → p. 83 Thunder cracks outside as Vivian walks into the room, which gives me a small knot in my stomach. I think the author is using that weather effect to make readers fear this new character. Will Vivian be the ultimate villain of this story or is the author just trying to trick me?
NOT THIS → p. 83 I LOVE this! I'm so happy right now.

DO THIS → p. 107 The author keeps taking us back to this post office. This is the third time we've been here, so I'm wondering what's significant about this. I think it might be symbolically important, but I don't get it. Author, what's with your post office obsession?
NOT THIS → p. 107 Wait, what? I don't understand.

*The key to writing successful annotation entries is being specific. Don't just tell me that something is making you feel sad, but why exactly is it making you feel sad. What kind of sadness? Is that sadness connected to something else? BE SPECIFIC!

**Grading Disclaimer: Only correctly formatted annotation journals will be accepted for grading, so, please follow guidelines outlined above. If I cannot read your handwriting, I cannot grade your journal; so, if your penmanship is not of the best quality, plan on typing your journal entries, punch holes in the papers and put them in a 3-ring binder. You will lose points if the assignment is not in a 1" 3-ring binder. This assignment is due on the first official day of school. You will lose 5% of your grade each day your assignment is late; I will not accept the assignment after 3 days.

Note:

ALL freshmen students are required to do both parts of the Summer Reading Assignment (Part I and Part II).