

June 2, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Enclosed please find the summer Language Arts assignments for students entering 9th grade at Temima High School in August 2011. These assignments are designed both to engage students' minds through reading and writing and to prepare students for the upcoming school year.

The 9th grade required summer reading book is *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. Students can elect either to purchase the book at a local book store or may check out the book from the public library. We will discuss this book as part of our first unit, so students should have access to a book during the first month of school. Students must read the book and complete the reading assignment listed on the following page before the start of the school year. Assignments will be collected on the first day of class after orientation week.

In addition, students should complete the reading and assignment for a second book of their choice from the list included in this packet.

I look forward to meeting and working with the 9th graders this fall. If you have any questions or concerns before the start of the fall semester, you may leave a message for me at the school or contact me by email at mschafstall@temima.org. Students may also email me with any specific questions about the summer assignments.

Sincerely,

Melissa K. Schafstall
Language Arts Teacher
Temima High School for Girls

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Part 1: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: The first day of class after orientation week. In addition to the assignment listed below, you will probably be given some kind of in-class writing assessment on this date.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

You must have a copy of this book to use for class discussion during the first month of the school year.

You may either type or handwrite your summer reading assignments; typed assignments should be double-spaced. I do take off points for spelling mistakes. Please number your answers with the question number. All paragraph answers should be about 4 - 5 sentences in length.

1) Describe each of the two main characters. How would you describe their personalities? What types of conflicts do they have with other characters?

You should write 1 paragraph about each character.

2) Summarize an incident in which both characters were involved (short paragraph). What does each character's actions and response to the incident tell us about that character? (1-2 paragraphs)

3) Summarize two incidents from the book (NOT the same incident used for question 2) and discuss what each incident suggests about the characters' friendship. Discuss each incident in a separate paragraph.

4) Discuss what this book seems to be suggesting about friendship. Choose two passages (quotes) from the book and discuss what each quote suggests about friendship. You need to write down the quote and page # from the book. Discuss each quote in a separate paragraph.

5) Compare this book to another book you have read or movie you have seen. You could compare them according to issues, characters, plot, etc. Note that the word "compare" means that you can discuss similarities and/or differences.

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Part 2: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: The second week of classes – but I **strongly** suggest that you at least have the book read before school starts as I will begin assigning homework the first week of school.

Choice of one of the following books:

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The story of a New England family of girls growing up during the Civil War.

Little Men by Louisa May Alcott

Little Women's Jo and her husband open up their hearts and home to educate and care for young boys.

Jo's Boys by Louisa May Alcott

Concluding book about the March girls and their families and the adventures of Jo's students.

The Scarlet Pimpernell by Baron Orksey

A romantic hero saves the French nobility from the guillotine during the French Revolution.

Call of the Wild, Jack London

A dog's experiences and fight for survival in the Alaskan wilderness.

All Creatures Great and Small, James Herriot

The true story of a country veterinarian and his touching adventures.

Watership Down, Richard Adams

Rabbits flee the destruction of their home in a story that touches on freedom, ethics, and human nature.

Running Out of Time, Margaret Peterson Haddix

Jessie believes she lives in the 1840's until her mother sends her on an escape mission to the outside world - where it's 1996.

Written Assignment: The ABC's of a Novel

Instructions:

- You are going to create an alphabet for the novel listed above.
- At least 22 letters of the alphabet must be used to connect to something significant in that novel. You will receive extra points for using all of the letters of the alphabet (1 point per letter)..
- For 10 of the letters, you must provide a passage (quote) from the novel. that illustrates the "something significant." To explain the other letters, you may paraphrase incidents from the book or use additional passage quotations.
- Length: quotes should be at least one full sentence. Paraphrased entries should be at least 2 complete sentences.
- Be creative in your use of the letters. You may use character names, places, animals, physical items, etc.
- You may choose to present your alphabet in a number of different ways (as a book, powerpoint presentation, poster, etc.).
- You should use the letters in order (A, B, C, D, etc.).
- Be creative! You may use illustrations where appropriate.

Example:

N Nature

--That bird's not thinking himself at all, Ruby said, . . . Look at that beak on him. Stab wound; that's his

main nature. He's thinking about what other thing he can stab and eat." (12)

OR instead of using a quote from the book, you could briefly explain why nature is important in this book..