

June 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

Enclosed please find the summer Language Arts assignments for students enrolled in Language Arts 9 Honors at Temima High School for the 2018-19 school year. These assignments are designed both to engage students' minds through reading and writing and to prepare students for the upcoming school year.

The 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 the first day of class after orientation week.

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

I look forward to meeting and working with this class in the 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 Schafstall
Language Arts Teacher
Temima High School for Girls

Language Arts 9 Honors

Part 1: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: The first day of class after orientation week.

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. Please also note that this assignment should be completed as you are reading the book, not after you finish it.

Assignment: Metacognitive Reader's Log

[NOTE: "Metacognitive" means "thinking about one's thinking." So in a metacognitive log, you are recording the thoughts you have as you read.]

In addition to reading the books themselves, this assignment will allow you to start the process of "talking to the text"—reflecting critically on what you read, asking questions about it, noting passages that interest or confuse you or stand out to you, and connecting what you read to your own life and what you know about the world. We will be spending the year developing this process, but for now you are just going to try a bit on your own.

To practice this kind of thinking, you will be answering questions about your reading. You will write log entries at 4 points over the course of the book—after you have read about 25% of the book, after you have read about 50% of the book, after you have read about 75% of the book, and after you have finished the book. At each of the 4 points, choose 3 of the following questions to answer:

1. What has been challenging for you so far? (Be specific.)
2. What has been interesting for you so far?
3. Is there anything you understand better now than you did earlier in the book?
4. What are you noticing about the plot, characters, style, conflict(s), or theme? (This can be used for up to 2 responses each time.)

You will stop 4 times, and will answer 3 questions each time, which means you will answer 12 questions total. We will be using your responses to reading in our class discussions for the book. You may either type or write (blue/black pen only) this assignment, and each response should be the equivalent of 3-8 typed lines (12 point font).

Examples:

Note - these were completed for the first 25% of the novel and are designed to be used as a guide. I did leave out some plot points here (indicated by . . .) so as not to give anything away before you read.

I find it interesting how Gene is always following Finny at whatever he does or tells him to do and never resists even though he doesn't want to, like when he doesn't want to go to the Super Suicide Society of the Summer Session every night but still goes because he doesn't want Finny to think of him differently.

I am noticing that Finny and Gene's relationship is changing because . . .

I am wondering what happened to Finny after he . . . and if he did it on purpose because he wanted to see if Gene would help him by This is similar to when Finny did

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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.

Your Choice:

Choose a book that interests you for your reading. This book should be at your reading level (it should not feel “too easy”) and should be at least 150 pages in length. It may be fiction or nonfiction. If you have trouble picking out a book, ask a friend, relative, sibling, or choose one from the suggested list below. You should read a book that you haven’t read before.

Suggested List (if you’re having trouble selecting a book):

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (or other books in this series)

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

The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baron Orkese

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.

Watership Down, Richard Adams

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

Written Assignment:

Your assignment should contain the following parts:

Annotated bibliography (see examples below)

A one-page reflective response on a main theme, not a summary

(Note: One-page is about 250 words, typed and double-spaced. It should also be more than one paragraph.)

A short (3-4 typed lines) paragraph about why you would recommend this book.

Annotated
Bibliography

Examples: You should include the publication information first (in the format listed below) and then a brief (about 50 word) synopsis of the book.

Mukherjee, Bharati. *Jasmine*. New York: Grove Press, 1989.

This is a story of the life of an Indian girl. She was widowed early in her life, and smuggled herself into America to escape from her husband’s murderer. When she comes to America, she accepts the American culture and changes the way she acts, dresses, and talks.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*. New York: Anchor Press, 1997.

This is a tragic story of the death of Chris McCandless. He gave up everything that he had, hitchhiked to Alaska, and walked into the wilderness, following his beliefs. His body was found later by Alaskans.