

# Summer Reading – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade - English 1 Honors

Welcome to the start of your next chapter. In order to better prepare for the rigor of your high school English class, we have designed the following tasks.

1. Choose ONE of the books below. You may purchase it or use a library or digital copy.
2. Complete ONE of the assignments independently.

**BOOK CHOICES:** These options have been selected because they each offer a unique and diverse perspective on coming-of-age -- a major theme within high school literature, as well as literary elements which will help you be better prepared for the literature we will read in class.

○ ***Ender's Game*** - Orson Scott Card

*Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. He will grow up fast (Goodreads).*

○ ***The Hate You Give*** –Angie Thomas\*

*Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend (Goodreads).*

○ ***Speak*** – Laurie Halse Anderson\*

*From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party (Goodreads).*

\* Denotes more mature language and/or themes.

# Assignment Options--Choose ONE of the following:

## Option 1: Soundtrack

Imagine that your book is to be made into a movie. You are to design the soundtrack that thoughtfully and carefully matches the book's plot, tone, and themes throughout.

### STEPS

- Read your book.
- Identify the plot sequence and main events.
- Identify themes.
- Identify mood and tone.
- Select or write at least 5 songs (instrumentals and lyrics) to exemplify the different elements above (plot sequence, themes, mood, tone).
- Write an academic paragraph of approximately 8 sentences explaining **your** selection of songs using textual evidence from the whole book.
- All this must be typed.

## Option 2: Comic Strip

Create a comic strip that insightfully portrays a pivotal scene from your book. Take note of mood, tone, characterization, and themes in your design.

### STEPS

- Read your book.
- Identify pivotal scene.
- Identify themes.
- Identify mood and tone.
- Create 10-15 color frames.
- Caption each frame.
- Title your comic strip.
- On separate sheet, type the passage that inspired you, and...
- Write an academic paragraph of approximately 8 sentences explaining **your** creative process and why you selected that scene.
- All this must be typed (except, of course, comic strip unless you are using software).

### **Option 3: Artistic Rendition**

Draw or paint a character's coming of age journey through insightful rendering of characterization, conflict, and stages of growth.

#### **STEPS**

- Read your book.
- Identify main character/characteristics.
- Identify stages of growth.
- Identify external/internal conflicts (address both).
- Select artistic medium (size should be app. 11x14).
- Get to creating!
- Write an academic paragraph of approximately **8** sentences explaining how the drawing represents the character's journey using textual evidence from 5 different plot points.

### **Option 4: Poetry Anthology**

Create a poetry anthology (minimum of six poems) written from the perspective of the protagonist about his/her journey.

#### **STEPS**

- Read your book.
- Identify the main character.
- Identify stages of journey, conflicts, and/or themes you want to write about.
- Start writing!
- Select images from magazines or digital sources to exemplify each poem (think—collage).
- Create a title page and table of content.
- Write an academic paragraph of approximately **8** sentences explaining the different elements you exemplified and while using textual evidence from the whole book.
- All this must be typed.

**DUE DATE: First day of school.**

*If you have questions, contact: [jpierson@bdchs.org](mailto:jpierson@bdchs.org)*