

Summer Reading Assignment

Honors English 9, 2026-27, New Prairie High School

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This summer, you will **read a book!** Get used to it because we read books in high school English classes. You may pick any **FICTION** novel that would be appropriate for a high school reading level. It should include **lots of words, very few, if any pictures**, and have **at least 125 pages**. (Books that are no longer appropriate for high school reading assignments are: Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Big Nate, Dork Diaries, Captain Underpants, etc.) This book should be one you have NEVER READ before! You may find your book at your local library, Amazon, Goodwill, etc.

There are **two parts** to your summer reading assignment. Read the directions thoroughly and be sure to **keep this copy** in a safe place. Also, don't wait until the last minute to read a book and complete this assignment. That's unnecessary stress when we're giving you 2 months to complete it! ☺



PART ONE: Fiction Novel Inquiry & Annotation Guide

As you read your chosen novel this summer, keep these questions nearby. You should annotate your text (*post-it notes are great if you will keep the book*) or keep a reading journal with these prompts in mind. Jot down notes that tie into the overall categories; do not respond specifically to these questions.

Upon your return in August, you will be asked to respond to a selection of these questions in a timed, on-demand writing assessment to establish a baseline of your analytical writing skills. Again, please do not create written responses or paragraphs before the first day of school, and don't stress about this list. You will be given a choice for the in-class writing based on these thought-provoking questions, and this will be stretched out over the first couple of weeks of school.

**** If you can keep a physical copy of the book and bring it to the first 2 weeks of school, that would be awesome, but it is not required. ****

I. The World of the Story (Setting & Social Context)

- **The Sensory Landscape:** If you were physically transported to this setting, what specific sensory details (sight, sound, smell) would define your experience? How does this environment establish the overall **tone** of the novel?
- **The Social Fabric:** What are the **spoken and unspoken rules** of this society? Who holds the power to create these rules, and how do they impact the choices available to the protagonist?

II. Character Complexity & Ethics

- **The Mirror Test:** Which character's worldview or experiences do you most closely align with? Conversely, which character feels most "alien" to you? Explain how the author's craft creates this connection or distance.
- **Moral Judgment:** Identify a moment where you found yourself judging a character's decisions. What does this moment reveal about the character's **internal conflict** versus the external pressures they face?
- **The Value Collision:** Choose a character who experiences a conflict between two different sets of values (e.g., loyalty to family vs. loyalty to the law). How does the character navigate this, and what does their choice reveal about them?

III. Narrative Craft & Perspective

- **The Lens of the Story:** Whose **perspective** dominates the narrative? How does the author's choice of narrator limit or expand your understanding of the "truth"? Consider what information might be missing if the story were told by a different character.
- **Symbolic Resonance:** Identify a recurring object, image, or motif. How does the meaning of this symbol evolve from the beginning of the novel to the end?
- **Structural Turning Points:** Pinpoint the exact moment the protagonist makes a choice they can never take back. How would the story have changed if this moment had occurred differently?

IV. Critical Evaluation & Extension

- **Thematic Argument:** Based on how the conflict is resolved, what "universal truth" is the author arguing (e.g., the nature of power, the cost of justice, or the definition of freedom)? Is the author's ultimate message optimistic or cynical?
- **Editorial Choice:** If you could alter one pivotal plot point or character decision, what would it be? Explain how this change would fundamentally shift the **theme** of the book.
- **Cinematic Translation:** Evaluate the "filmability" of this text. Does the story rely more on internal monologue or external action? Who would you cast in the lead role to capture the character's **essential complexity**?
- **The Extended Arc:** Based on the established trajectory of the characters and the "facts" of the ending, predict the logical consequences that would follow the final page.



PART TWO: Fiction Novel Creative One-Pager

You will submit this one-pager assignment **on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL in August!** Don't underestimate the amount of time needed to devote to this project in order to create a high-quality result. Rather than trying to get it all done the night before, divide the project up and complete it over the last week or two before it's due.

- **What is a "one-pager"?**
 - A one-pager is when students take what they've learned from a novel (fiction) and put the highlights onto a single piece of paper. The overall visual effect should capture the dominant mood or feeling of the book.
- **What's included in a one-pager?**
 - Students may include quotations, ideas, images, analysis, key names and dates, and more. They may make connections to other texts, culture, or their own lives.
- **I'm not an artist, Mrs. Medors, so how am I going to do well on this?**
 - Students do not have to be artists to succeed on this assignment. Stretch your creative muscles, but most of all, think about how to express the required elements in unconventional ways. Use lettering, color, doodling, icons or symbols, and stick figures to make it visually appealing. *This is all to be completed by hand - no computer-printed submissions will be accepted.*

General requirements

- **Format:** One side of a standard white piece of paper. (templates allowed; can be vertical or horizontal layout).
- **Aesthetics:** No blank spaces allowed; the entire page must be colored.
- **Medium:** No work should be left in pencil; use ink, markers, or colored pencils.
- **Identification:** Your first and last name must be clearly displayed.
- **Labels:** Information is clearly marked with required labels.
- **Quality writing:** Any required writing must be legible and written in complete sentences.
- **Brainstorming:** Spend at least 30 minutes planning before final execution.

Specific requirements

1. **Title & Author:** Clearly display the book title and the author's name.
2. **Thematic Border:** Create a border that reflects symbols, quotes, or key vocabulary from the book.
3. **Thematic Analysis:** Choose one theme and write it as a theme statement. Include a short explanation of how characters were impacted by this theme. (LABEL "THEME")

4. **Figurative Language:** Choose 2 examples of figurative language and explain their importance to that part of the novel. Explanations can be on the back side of the paper. (LABEL WHAT TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IS BEING USED.)
5. **Images/Illustrations:** Include at least 4 images that represent any combination of characters, conflict, setting, symbolism, or other key parts of the plot. These images should draw the viewer in, with the text being secondary to the images. (NO LABEL NEEDED)
6. **Standout Quotations:** Include at least two quotes that stood out to you. Quotes must have an explanation of their significance. (*Why did it stand out to you? What is the impact of this quote? How did it impact a particular character?*) If you do not have room to write your explanation with the quote, the explanation should be written on the backside of the paper. (LABEL "QUOTE #1" AND "QUOTE #2")
7. **Personal Statement or connection:** Include your thoughts on at least one significant personal connection you have to the book, character, setting, theme, etc. Be specific. (LABEL "PERSONAL CONNECTION")

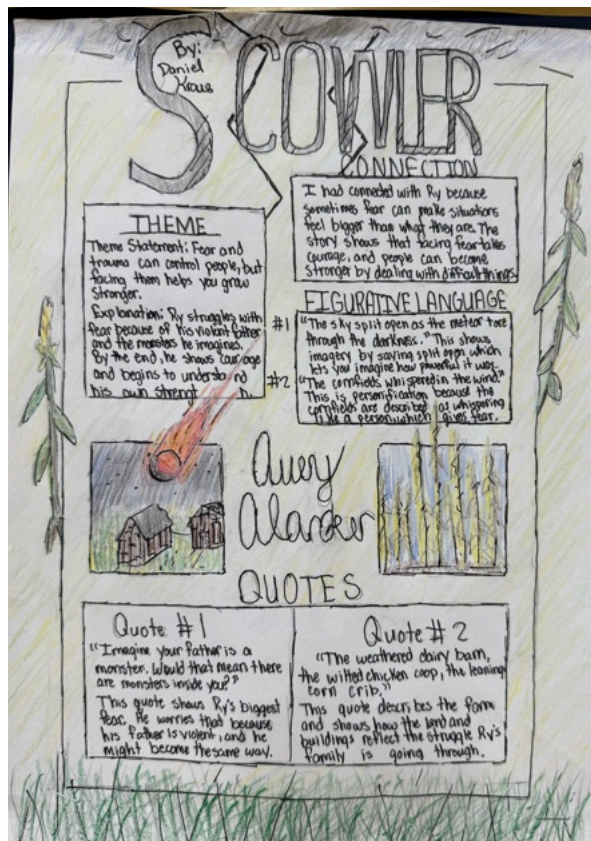
See the following pages for one-pager examples and grading rubrics.

Rubric that will be used for written responses completed during the first two weeks of school:

Category	4 - Exceeds Expectations	3 - Proficient	2 - Developing	1 - Emerging
Claim / Thesis	Creates a sophisticated, arguable claim that directly addresses the prompt.	Creates a clear, logical claim that answers the prompt.	Claim is present but is mostly factual or a restatement of the prompt.	Claim is missing, unclear, or purely a summary of the plot.
Evidence	Includes specific, high-quality evidence (quotes or paraphrasing) that perfectly supports the claim.	Includes relevant evidence from the text to support the claim.	Evidence is present but may be "surface-level" or not fully connected to the claim.	Minimal or no evidence provided; relies on vague generalizations.
Analysis	The "So What?" Insightfully explains <i>how</i> the evidence proves the claim; connects to larger themes.	Explains the connection between the evidence and the claim clearly.	Briefly explains the evidence, but relies more on summarizing the plot than analyzing it.	No analysis provided; response is strictly a plot summary.
Voice & Mechanics	Writing is academic, formal, and flows well. Error-free or very minor errors.	Writing is clear and mostly formal. Errors do not distract the reader.	Writing is informal or repetitive. Several errors in grammar or punctuation.	Significant errors make the response difficult to understand.

One Pager Grading Rubric (50 Points Total)

Category	Description	Points
Information	References are accurate and all required components from the specific list (Fiction or Non-Fiction) are included.	10 pts
Analysis	Demonstrates deep understanding through insightful examples and commentaries on theme or purpose.	10 pts
Graphics	Illustrations are meaningful, neat, colored, and relate directly to the text.	10 pts
Overall Appearance	The page is colorful, filled completely, and shows significant effort/creativity.	10 pts
Writing Conventions	Proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling are used throughout.	10 pts



Theme

Theme Statement: Your pain doesn't define who you are as a person.

In the story, both main characters were going through a lot, but they still managed to heal and together and travel to new places they've never seen in Indiana. In addition, both got accepted into colleges.

Quote 1: "Your turn to go!"

Quote 2: "We are all broken, in our own ways, but that's what makes us whole."

Fig. Lang. Simile: "He had a way of looking at me that made me feel like a rare bird..."

Metaphor: "He thought this was a control when she was with him. This lets him know she's always there."

Quote 3: "I'm not the same person I was."

Personal Connection: "After the end of the story, some of the characters are talking in cars and yourself, Edon has to learn what healthy love and boundaries look like, especially compared to the unhealthy conditions from her past."

All the Bright Places

Author: Ransom Riggs

KILLER TRIAL CONSEQUENCES

AS GOOD AS DEAD

By: Holly Jackson

Personal Statement: A personal connection I have to Pip one of the main characters in this book would be feeling anxiety, stress, and being scared of things I wouldn't be scared of if things that have happened didn't. Pip also tends to be an over-thinker in situations. I very much relate to this and over-think things and expect the worst outcome in different situations. However, Pip strives to be the best so I relate to that as well.

Quote #1: "I'm not the same person I was."

Quote #2: "You can't save everyone."

IMAGERY

HYPERBOLE

OBSESSIONS SECRETS BLOOD

MURDER DISAPPEARANCES

THE WAY I AM NOW

THEME

The main theme of The Way I Am Now is trust and healthy relationships. The book explores what it takes to rebuild trust in one's self and others. Edon has to learn what healthy love and boundaries look like, especially compared to the unhealthy conditions from her past.

FIG LANG.

- Metaphor - Edon describes horses in ways that compare her emotional state to something damaged or broken.
- Imagery - The book often describes darkness or shadows to represent Edon's emotional pain, in contrast to moments that she's had of hope.

QUOTES

- "Healing isn't a straight line" this quote shows that Edon's recovery from what she went through has ups and downs. It highlights the theme that growth takes time and isn't perfect.
- "I am more than what happened to me." This quote shows Edon accepting her identity from her past. It reflects her strength and self-acceptance that she gains throughout the book.

CONNECTION

This book is a very personal to Edon's life and all the challenges she went through in life so now I connect to this book in the way Edon was able to push through all her challenges and not let them push her down.

YTD! YTD! YTD! YTD!

Football Genius

Tim Green

Theme: This book shows how hard work can pay off. Troy went to a Falcons game with his mom through his job and he tried winning the team but they wouldn't let him, and they ended up losing. He also tried talking to the defensive coordinator given the chance by an Atlanta player named Seth, but they still didn't believe him. Seth gave him a second chance, and he was able to prove to the owner that he knows what plays will happen before they happen. Troy helped them win the team's important game against the Saints. Troy was then impacted with success, the owner gave him a job as a ball boy, and he also gave Troy a scholarship for college. The defensive coordinator that didn't believe him got fired.

Fig Lang: "Kid is like a bad penny" - coach Krack simile

Quote 1: "If he want, setting the football on his offense, kicking back on his feet, and reading feet" - narrator

Personal Connection: I felt somewhat connected to this book because I love football. I haven't had my parents divorce, but I know the feeling of people not believing in you. I felt like this book is a triumph story and it makes me feel hopeful and never want to give up.

Quote 2: "He laughed at me Tate. They all did, everyone on that sideline, but I was right and they lost." - Troy

Imagery: The wedding ring that resembles both the coach and player

Falcons logo

Troy's favorite team

A scholarship that Troy earns

YTD! YTD! YTD! YTD!

MERCY

By Stephen King

Samuel Ringer

Theme

The theme of the story is obsession, it shows how love can become dangerous when you love it too much. Annie obsessed over Paul so much to the point that she secretly insured Paul.

Metaphor, Simile

"Annie was a monster in Paul's life" storm hanging over Paul.

"Annie is like a storm hanging over Paul."

Personal Connection

I connected to the theme of the story obsession, for example I was so obsessed with wrestling whenever I lost I would let my emotions get the best of me and couldn't think straight.

IF ONLY I HAD TOLD HER

Lucas Newlin

THEME

"Love is powerful, but fear and poor communication can ruin relationships and lead to regret."

- Autumn and Flynn clearly care about each other, but they stop talking about their true feelings. This leads to miscommunication and other people influence their own choices. Their fear of being hurt leads to changes and lives forever, and causes deep regret for all of them.

Figurative language!

- "If only I had told her." - This quote shows the main idea of the whole book. Flynn regrets not saying to Autumn how he really feels. It also shows how powerful words can be and how silence can cause someone you love pain.
- "Metaphor: love was being described like a fragile that can shatter very easily." - This shows how delicate Finn and Autumn's relationship was when one mistake or one single moment at a time can change everything.
- "Imagery: The author describes the emotional states in a very detailed way to the reader through the senses and tension." - The imagery makes readers feel the characters both more deeply, this helps us connect to their emotions.

QUOTES:

"Some things are better left unsaid."

"This connects directly to the theme: Finn separates and silence is the barrier. It's choice, but the same great idea: silence can cause Finn and Autumn's relationship throughout the book."

PERSONAL CONNECTION:

I can relate to this book because sometimes it's hard to tell people how you really feel. Having people might be scared they will judge on me. This book, a moment that being honest, important, even when it's hard really helps.

ESCAPE from CHERNOBYL

by Andy Aarvik

THEME

In a time of emergency, truth and awareness are essential, because secrets and obsession can be as dangerous as the disaster itself. We saw the warning for the explosion in a secret, hidden room.

Figurative Language

"We didn't just lose a town, we lost our whole lives" - hyperbole

"Chernobyl is a lucky place" - metaphor

Quote #1

"He suggests that if he could give away the truth, he would give away the power of the secret."

Quote #2

"The secret makes me feel the pressure, the man in black says at the very end of the story."

Run

Survive

Live