

## English 10 Summer Reading Assignment

In the English Department's attempt to provide rich and varied reading experiences for our students, we have selected titles for the summer reading lists written mostly by contemporary authors. Some selections are focused toward mature readers. We encourage parents to assist their children in selecting interesting, appropriate titles for their summer reading. *Barnes & Noble's* website provides information including Lexile level, book reviews, and age levels for specific titles. If no age level is specified in the "Product Details" section on the *Barnes & Noble* site, the book may be focused toward mature readers for various reasons including mature themes or mature content. *Barnes & Noble* is suggested as a resource only, not an endorsement of any specific bookseller.

### Topics and Titles:

Below are the novels I have chosen for your summer reading assignment. Choose **TWO** titles from the list below. You will be responsible for reading **TWO** of the novels listed over the course of the summer and the completed essays will be due when we start school in August. The actual date due will be when the second day of school falls. If you wish to read a book outside of this list it must be grade level appropriate and it must be approved by me. You may find these titles at most *Barnes & Noble Booksellers* or you can check one out from your local library. Our list of books has been submitted to the Salem, NH store. If you need to email me you can my email address is: [j.mcgarra@gsaanh.com](mailto:j.mcgarra@gsaanh.com).

*The House of Spirits* by Isabel Allende  
*Speak* by Laurie Hallse Anderson  
*Lord of the Flies* by Willing Golding  
*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles  
*1984* by George Orwell  
*Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling  
*Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare  
*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

### Writing Assignment Guidelines:

After reading, choose two topics from the list below and write two well-constructed essays. Include the topic you are addressing in your essay at the top of your essay. Each essay must be **3 to 5 pages** in length. If you struggle to find a prompt that fits your book, email me and I will help you. I am open to altering any essay to fit your needs as well as the piece of literature chosen. All essays **REQUIRE** an **MLA** works cited page and in-text/parenthetical reference.

**Note:** All work must be handed in as a shared *googledoc* to [j.mcgarry@gsaanh.com](mailto:j.mcgarry@gsaanh.com). If you do not have access to our Google system yet, you may attach a word document to an email.

**Note:** You have the option of submitting a draft prior to the due date for editing suggestions.

**Note:** Many of the novels on the list of titles have been made into films, films that I have seen. Please do not substitute your reading by viewing the film, honestly I will be able to tell if you have watched the film over the novel and you will not receive credit for the essay. If you wish to write a comparison piece you may email me and we can discuss that type of essay instead of one of the choices below.

**Writing Assignment Topics:**

1. What makes a classic? Why is the book you've chosen to read considered a classic? Do you agree with its designation? If you agree or disagree why has this particular novel been chosen as an exemplar to be used in high school classes? Write a thoughtful, critical essay in which you examine the use of classic novels in the classroom. Take a stance and make claims to support your claim.
2. Shakespeare's tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* is a powerful drama about young love and familial conflict. Compare this play to another piece of literature that you have read and that embodies the same themes.
3. In the beginning of a novel, an author may present a character one way, but by the end of the novel, this same character may behave differently. Through characterization, we can learn to understand people. Using a piece of literature that you have read, discuss the ways in which the author used characterization to present personality
4. Flashback is a technique whereby past events are recalled while telling a story in the present. Discuss this technique as it was used in a piece of literature that you have read and tell why this was the best way to tell the story.
5. Often, an author will give the reader more information than the characters have. Using a novel from the list, speculate on the reasons an author would use this method.
6. Frequently, popular novels are adapted into motion pictures. Discuss a novel from the list read that has been made into a motion picture. Compare/contrast the plot, setting, and characterization in both mediums.
7. The coming of age theme is very popular in literature. This term refers to a pre-adolescent boy or girl going through many difficult, life altering experiences in order to reach young adulthood. Using a novel from the list, discuss this theme. Be sure to use supporting details and evidence in your essay.

8. Often in literature, a character has ironic experiences that can be humorous or fateful. Discuss how this technique was used in a piece of literature that you have read.

9. Using a novel from the list, discuss the theme of personal suffering and loss.

10. An allegory is a literary piece in which the surface plot, characters, and theme convey a symbolic meaning. Discuss the use of allegory in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

### **Common Core Standards Addressed-**

#### **RI.10**

By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend **literary nonfiction** in the grades 9-10 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

#### **RL.10**

By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend **literature**, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 9-10 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

#### **W.10.1**

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

#### **W.10.2**

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.