

# Yeshiva Atlanta's Summer Reading Program Literature and Composition Mr. Byron

## Summer Reading Philosophy:

Yeshiva Atlanta's English Department believes that the Summer Reading Assignment is an opportunity for students to establish a broad literary foundation and to develop cultural literacy. Second, students need to exercise their independent reading and thinking skills during the summer months in preparation for college. Third, the Summer Reading Assignments contribute to a lifelong habit of educational growth and entertainment. Literature allows students to use their imaginations to take them to unknown worlds and to give them a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

The Summer Reading Packet contains a list of books the student may choose from and the assignment options for each, as well as an additional, non-fiction assignment. The assignments in this packet are to be completed by the first day of school in August of 2011. Having the students read and do minimal assignments throughout the summer ensures that the students will be better prepared and ready to start the curriculum for the new school year.

## Summer Reading Assignments

Summer Reading Assignments require the use of close reading, reading comprehension and interpretation skills. Therefore, the assignments are within the expectations of the grade level just completed, yet challenging enough to give the new grade level teacher an indication of the abilities of the student. The student should not spend an extraordinary amount of time on each assignment. Yet, he/she should read each selection carefully prior to attempting the assignment. Please consult the last page of this packet for explanation concerning the computation of grades and expectations of assignments.

**Assignments must be submitted on the first day of school, at the beginning of class.**

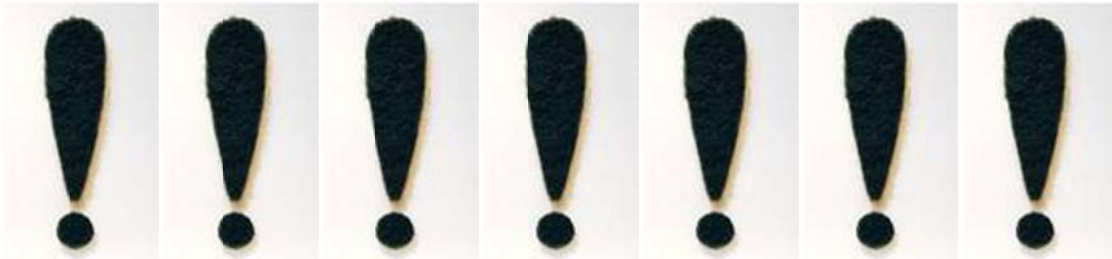
\*\*Students accepted and enrolled after July 31 should have all of the assignments completed by the first day of school.

# Ninth Grade Reading List

Everyone must choose one\* book from the list below to read.  
(Assignment options on following pages)

<i>A Separate Peace</i>	John Knowles	
<i>Girl with a Pearl Earring</i>	Tracy Chevalier	
<i>My Antonia</i>	Willa Cather	
<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	Sandra Cisneros	
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Charles Dickens	
<i>The Natural</i>	Bernard Malamud	
<i>Little Women</i>	Louisa May Alcott	
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	John Steinbeck	
<i>Watership Down</i>	Richard Adams	
<i>The Cider House Rules</i>	John Irving	
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	Betty Smith	
<i>The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky</i>	Farah Ahmedi	

\*Not every book will be appropriate for every student, in terms of reading level and content. We encourage parents to be a part of their child's decision of which book(s) to read.



# Summer Reading Assignments: Due on the first day of class!

All work should be **TYPED** and double-spaced

## Assignment 1:

Every ninth grade student must do the following assignment:

### Magazine Article

- Choose a magazine article of interest to you, of **at least three pages in length**.
- Write a personal response to the article, including: a *brief* summary, an explanation of why the topic interests you, and an overall personal reaction to the article.
  - What did you learn from reading the article?
  - Would you recommend it to someone else to read?
  - Did reading it make you think or feel differently about the subject?
- Your response should be at least **3 paragraphs** (4-6 sentences each) **in length**, typed and double spaced. Make sure your name, class and date is on it.

Important: You must include a copy of the article you read, stapled to the back of your response.

## Assignment 2:

### Novel(s):

Choose **one** book from the book list to read. Then choose **one** of the following assignment options for that book.

**\*\*Follow all instructions very carefully and do your own work!!**

## Assignment Options for Books from the Book List:

### Option 1: Book Jacket

- Make a decorative, colorful cover the book
- Include the title and name of the author on the front cover.
- Make an original, creative, **color** illustration of one scene in the story for the cover—your own drawing, **not** a computer image.
- Write a short, informative, original synopsis of one of the most important scenes in the book on the inside, **right side** of the jacket, **2-3 paragraphs** (5-7 sentences each) in length.
  - **Do not summarize the whole book.** Instead, describe the **details** of the scene (who is involved, where it takes place, what exactly happens, etc) and discuss its **importance** to the rest of the story.
- Write a vivid, original description of one character in the book on the inside, left side of the jacket, **2-3 paragraphs** (5-7 sentences each) in length.
- Fold in the shape of a book jacket. Refer to a professional book jacket as an example.
- Write your name, class and date on the back cover.

### Option 2: Newspaper Article

- Write a newspaper article, reporting on any important scene in the book.
- Include an **attention-grabbing title**.
- Write a brief description of the situation, from a reporter's point of view. Include plenty of **details** to describe the scene: Who's there? What's the location? What exactly is going on?
- You must include brief interviews or quotes from witnesses on the scene (characters in the book).
- Make it sensational and exciting! You can be as creative as you want.
- Include a **color** illustration to go along with your article—done by hand, not computer-generated.
- Be sure to include your name and class somewhere on the front of the article.
- Total length must be at least 500 words.

### Option 3:

#### Personal Response Journal or Main Character Journal

- Keep a reaction journal while you read the book- it may be from your own point of view, as the reader, **OR** from the point of view of the main character.
- You are to react to the events in the book as you are reading it. Therefore, the first part of this assignment is to be completed when you are half-way through the book, and the second part when you are finished reading the whole book.
- For each journal entry:
  - Briefly describe what has happened up to that point (only the most important event(s)—no need to summarize everything) in one paragraph.
  - Then, write your reaction to the events and the characters involved (details below; 1-2 paragraphs).

#### For the first entry:

- If you are writing from your own, the reader's, point of view, describe how you feel about what has happened in the first half of the book.
  - Did you see the events that took place coming?
  - What do you think about the main character(s) so far?
  - How would *you* feel if you were in their position?
  - What do you think is going to happen next?

**-OR-**

- If you are writing from the main character's point of view, put yourself in his/her place, and write what you *think* their reaction would be to the events and other characters up to this point in the book. How is this character feeling right now? What does he/she think about what's happened so far and what will happen next?

#### For the second entry:

- Follow the same guidelines as above, but reflect on the second half of the book. The first paragraph should be a brief summary of the most important development(s) in the second half of the book. Then use the following prompts to guide you in writing your 1-2 paragraph response to the second half:
  - Are you (as the reader or as the main character) surprised at what happened?
  - How do you feel about it?
  - What, if anything, did you learn from the characters and events in the book?

## Summer Reading Grading Policy Literature and Composition

Grades for Summer Reading will be given in the following manner:

The personal response to a magazine article is worth 50 points.

Each book project is worth 100 points.

**Again, all assignments are due on the first day of class!**

Failure to complete Summer Reading Assignments will be extremely detrimental to your first semester grade and, consequently, may impact your yearly average.

Your work must reflect full effort and ORIGINALITY!