

ENGLISH SUMMER READING LIST 2019

(FOR INCOMING 9TH GRADERS)

Assignment

1. Take notes as you read **TWO books** (*West Side Story* by Irving Shulman and a book of **your choice**). Use the reading charts that have been provided for you as a sample of how your notes should be organized. Complete the provided reading charts, but continue them into your own notebooks. (Completing a single sheet for each book is not enough.) Staple each book's notes together so that you have *two separate packets* to hand in (one on *West Side Story* and one on your chosen book).
2. Focus extensively on literary elements. While you must complete each part of the chart, the literary elements column should be where you spend most of your time. **You will need specific examples of the elements from each book.** Here are some literary terms you should be very familiar with: **alliteration, conflict, flashback, foreshadowing, hyperbole, imagery, irony, literal vs. figurative meaning, metaphor, mood, narrator, onomatopoeia, personification, simile, theme, etc.**
3. When you return in September, you will receive a grade for your reading charts. Additionally, you may complete various assignments related to the summer reading throughout the first semester of school.

***If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Elmer at aelmer@k12.tullyschools.org prior to the end of the school year (6/26/19).**

The grade for your notes will be determined using the following rubric:

- 100%**- *All* notes are thorough, complete, detailed, and accurate. The student clearly thought about the reading and made insightful connections regarding characters, events, and literary elements.
- 80%** - *Most* notes are complete, detailed, and accurate. There may be some missing details or inaccuracies. The student clearly read the book but did not take his/her notes to a higher level of thinking.
- 65%** - *Some* notes are complete, detailed, and accurate. There are many details missing and some sections are not completed. The student did the bare minimum.
- 0%** - Blank or not turned in

*Note: If you are having a tough time making a choice about which "choice book" to pick, there is a list of suggestions on the back of this assignment. You do **not** have to choose from this list, however.

LIST OF SUGGESTIONS

Parents/Guardians whose child chooses from this list should assist her/him in selecting a book appropriate for her/his reading level, maturity, and personal interest. Please keep in mind that these are only suggestions. Students may choose a title of their choice beyond this list, provided it is appropriate in content and grade level.

***An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff**

This true story is about the author and her friend, Maurice. They met on 56th street in Manhattan in 1986, when she was a 35-year-old single, successful ad sales executive, and he was an 11-year-old homeless panhandler. He asked her for spare change; she ignored him and kept walking. But something made her stop, and turn around, and go back to him, and that day she took him to lunch at McDonalds. This is the story of how Maurice changed her life. It is the story of how two people who needed each other somehow became unlikely friends, against all odds. It is the story of the mysterious, unseen connections that exist between people who are destined to meet—and how, if only we open our eyes and our hearts to them, these connections can be the great blessings of our lives.

***Breathing Underwater* by Alex Finn**

To his friends, popular and handsome sixteen-year-old Nick Andreas has led a charmed life, but the guys in Nick's anger management class know differently. So does his ex-girlfriend, Caitlin. Now it looks like the only person who doesn't realize how far from perfect Nick's life has become is Nick himself. This book proceeds in two different time frames: the journal in which Nick relives the course of his tender but stormy love affair with Caitlin and the time after the restraining order, in which a desperate and friendless Nick struggles to understand and overcome his anger.

***Con-fidence* by Todd Strasser**

Lauren would love to be part of the popular crowd at school, and when an attractive new girl seems to befriend her and offers a chance at popularity, Lauren does not recognize how she is being manipulated. This novel highlights the darker side of cliques, peer pressure, acceptance, and friendship.

***Define Normal* by Julie Anne Peters**

This story is about two girls--a "punk" and a "priss"--who find themselves facing each other in a peer-counseling program. They are complete opposites. Antonia is a straight-A student whose parents are divorced, and she is struggling to keep what's left of her family together as her mother battles depression. Jazz's family is wealthy and seemingly perfect. As they continue through the 15 hours of peer counseling, it becomes clear that both girls have issues they need to work through. This unlikely pair soon discovers that they have some surprising things in common.

***The Misfits* by James Howe**

Best friends for years, four seventh graders have all been the target of cruel name-calling, but now that they're in seventh grade, they're not about to take it anymore. This hilarious novel focuses on the quietest of the bunch, overweight Bobby, showing how he evolves from nerd to hero when he starts speaking his mind. Addie, his friend, decides that the four of them should run against more popular peers in the upcoming student council election. But her lofty ideals and rabble-rousing speeches make the wrong kind of waves, offending fellow classmates, teachers and the principal.

*Book summaries have been modified from the book covers.

SUMMER READING CHART: ENGLISH 9

Student _____ Book Title: *West Side Story*

Author: Irving Shulman

Pages	Setting: -time period -season -location -imagery contributing to setting, etc.	Characterization: -descriptions of characters' personality, physicality, and perception -label antagonist and protagonist	Plot: -important events, in chronological order	Literary Elements: -provide example with citation -label literary element -explain how example/element enhances story

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