

1183 English 9 Honors Summer Reading Requirement

Students enrolled in 1183 English 9 Honors must read ONE of the following novels and complete the attached reading activities prior to the start of the coming school year. Teachers of ninth grade will collect the written work during the first week of the course. Learning activities and assessments throughout the year may involve discussion and analysis of this summer assignment.

A Separate Peace

John Knowles

Returning to Devon School after an absence of fifteen years, Gene Forrester, the narrator of *A Separate Peace*, visits the two locations on the Devon campus that have the greatest significance for him--the First Academy Building and the tree beside the Devon River. As he walks away from the tree, Gene remembers the summer session of 1942, just prior to his senior year. The remainder of the novel is a flashback detailing Gene's experiences during the summer session and the following school year. *A Separate Peace* won the National Institute of Arts and Letters Award and the William Faulkner Foundation Award in 1960.

Farewell to Manzanar

**Jeanne Wakatasuki Houston
and James D. Houston**

Farewell to Manzanar is a true account of a Japanese-American family's struggle to survive in both a physical and filial sense. The story traces how they cope with life in the Manzanar internment camp in the desert of Owens Valley, California during World War II. The narrator is Jeanne Wakatasuki, a young girl who spends over three years with her family in this camp. The book presents realistic details of life in an internment camp, some of which are unpleasant. Overall, however, this selection is upbeat, full of hope, and a fascinating reflection of human dignity.

Fallen Angels

Walter Dean Myers

In this award-winning novel, Myers presents the myriad experiences of a group of men who come of age during the Vietnam War. Richard Perry, the novel's protagonist and narrator, enlists in the army mainly to escape his problems: an alcoholic mother, a lack of opportunity in Harlem, and uncertainty about his future. He finds himself in the middle of a war that is more confusing and traumatic than the life he fled. Myers employs military jargon and earthy language to establish the tone of this insightful look at a controversial chapter in American history.

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Each of the three selections offers a wonderful reading opportunity for young adults. While similar in theme, the novels vary in terms of subject matter, conflicts, etc. Parents and guardians are encouraged to preview these three texts with their children in order to make the most appropriate choice for each individual.

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During Reading

After the first chapter . . .

5. What are your first impressions of this novel?

After you have completed about half of the novel...

6. Where and when does this story take place? What has the author done to bring this setting to life?

7. Who is your favorite character? What has happened to that character so far in the novel?

8. Explain the basic plot of the novel so far to an adult of your choice (parent, grandparent, family friend). Have the adult initial here to indicate that you completed this assignment.

Initials _____

9. What in the novel caused you confusion (even if the confusion was only temporary)? What strategies did you and/or will you use to eliminate this confusion?

10. Make three predictions about future events in the novel. What do you think will happen?

After Reading

11. Before reading you made predictions about the meaning of the title. Reread your predictions. Now that you have completed the novel, explain the meaning of the title.

12. During your reading you identified your favorite character. How did the novel end for him or her?

13. During your reading you made three predictions about future events in the novel. Were you correct about any of these predictions? Were you surprised by any events in the second half of the novel?

14. In your mind, what was the theme (central message or insight into life revealed by a literary work) of your novel? Explain. Note: Theme is not a single word or phrase like “war,” but a generalization about people or life that your novel appears to communicate.

15. On a scale from one to ten, with ten being the top of the scale, how would you rate your novel overall?
What literary characteristics (e.g., plot, characters, description) were most important in your evaluation?

16. Using pencil, pen, crayon, colored pencils, or markers, **ILLUSTRATE** the most memorable scene from the novel. (You will not be evaluated on artistic talent.) Write a caption at the bottom of the page that captures the meaning of your illustration.

CAPTION: _____
