

Senior English Seminar Summer Reading 2017

Each student in Senior English Seminar is required to read TWO books from the provided list. You must have a Reader's Notebook for the novels you read this summer. Follow the directions to set-up the Reader's Notebook:

Reader's Notebook Instructions

1. You will need a 100 page 3 ring spiral notebook
2. In the front inside cover title it: Books I Want to Read; on the back inside cover title it: Books I Have Read
3. Each novel you read=1 page in your notebook (front and back)
 - a. At the top of the page write the title of the book and author
 - b. **Create a parent signature line Draw a line down the middle of the page so you have two columns on the front AND back of the page. Divide each book into four sections (divide the number of pages by 4 so you know the number for each section. For example: *The Alchemist* has 182 pages in it. Divided by 4=45.5 pages so after 45 pages STOP and write. Each column MUST be completely filled with your thoughts about the section.**

Reader's Notebook Written Response Possibilities:

Please note that this is not to be used to ONLY summarize your novel. It is important to make connections to what you are reading.

If you're having trouble understanding or following the plot, you can...

Look up vocabulary

Write the word and the dictionary definition.

Summarize each chapter

Note important details. List important events chronologically.

At the end of the chapter, complete this sentence for each character: (A character) wanted....but....so....

Ask clarifying questions

Then try to answer your questions through re-reading, thinking about the question, or asking someone.

Visualize the text

Describe in your own words or draw a picture of the characters, setting, or a particular scene.

Pay attention to your attention

If you can't concentrate on the story, why not? What could you change to help you pay better attention?

To get a deeper understanding, you can...

Make inferences

Inferences are conclusions you can draw based on information that's available and your own experiences. For example, if you saw a child in a stroller with a woman pushing it, you might infer the woman was his mother. But be careful to check your inferences when new information comes up – that woman could be a kidnapper or the baby sitter or his aunt.

Ask deep questions

Deep questions usually begin with "Why" and don't just have a single answer. Think about the possible answers.

Make connections

You can make text-to-self connections(what in the book reminds you of your own life?), text-to-text(what in the book reminds you of another book?), or text-to-world(what in the book reminds

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React

How do you feel about the characters or what's happening in the book?

Predict

What do you think is going to happen next? Why?

Pick out important, interesting, or confusing passages.

Explain why you picked the passage from the text. Use the passage to make inferences, ask questions, make connections, react or predict.

Look at the writer's technique

Pick a rich passage and explain how the passage is put together. Look for and explain symbols, figurative language, and imagery.

Think about the big ideas and the writer's overall purpose.

Pick a passage and explain how it connects to one of the big ideas and the writer's overall purpose.

Pick TWO books from the list below to read. **YOU MUST PICK ONE FROM THE MALE LIST AND ONE FROM THE FEMALE LIST.** Record your thoughts in your Reader's Notebook. This will be checked on September 5, 2017. An essay assessment will be assigned on September 5th.

MALE LIST

1. *Unbroken* (young adult) by Laura Hillenbrand: *Unbroken* is the young-adult adaptation of Laura Hillenbrand's acclaimed biography of Olympic runner-turned-POW Louis Zamperini. It is incredibly detailed and doesn't skimp on the intense violence, torture, and cruelty Zamperini survived during his time as a Japanese prisoner during World War II.
2. *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch: Based on the extraordinary final lecture by Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch, given after he discovered he had pancreatic cancer, this moving book goes beyond the now-famous lecture to inspire readers to live each day with purpose and joy. Photos of Randy and his family and friends are included.
3. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah: The book is a firsthand account of Beah's time as a child soldier during the civil war in Sierra Leone (1990s). Beah ran away from his village at the age of 12 after it was attacked by rebels, and he became forever separated from his immediate family. He wandered the war-filled country and was forced to join an army unit who brainwashed him into using guns and drugs. By 13, he had perpetuated and witnessed a great deal of violence. At the age of 16, however, UNICEF removed him from the unit and put him into a rehabilitation program. There he was able to find his uncle that would adopt him. With the help of some of the staff he was able to return to a civilian life and get off drugs. He was then given an opportunity to teach others about child soldiers. He traveled the United States recounting his story.

FEMALE LIST

1. *I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* by Malala Yousafzai: In 2009 Malala Yousafzai began writing a blog on BBC Urdu about life in the Swat Valley as the Taliban gained control, at times banning girls

Malala Yousafzai: In 2009 Malala Yousafzai began writing a blog on BBC Urdu about life in the Swat Valley as the Taliban gained control, at times banning girls from attending school. When her identity was discovered, Malala began to appear in both Pakistani and international media, advocating the freedom to pursue education for all. In October 2011, gunmen boarded Malala's school bus and shot her in the face, a bullet passing through her head and into her shoulder. Remarkably, Malala survived the shooting.

2. *Left to Tell Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by Immaculée Ilibagiza:

Immaculee Ilibagiza grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family that she cherished. But in 1994 her idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into bloody holocaust. Immaculee's family was brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans. Incredibly, Immaculee survived the slaughter. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. The triumphant story of this remarkable young woman's journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose life has been touched by fear, suffering and loss.