

9th Grade Summer Reading Books

All students must read the following two books:

Book #1 - *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. One all boys school, a few new friends, and the trials they face as they grow in the midst of a distant (but growing ever-closer) war.

Book #2 - *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. 451 degrees: The temperature at which books burn . . . This is the story of a dystopian society where books are illegal . . . but why?

Expectations and format for book one: Write a **typed response** for your required reading selection that responds to the questions below. Use the following requirements:

- Font size - 12 point
- Times New Roman
- Show **clear understanding** of the assignment and the text.
- Show **thoroughness** and depth of analysis (details and examples but not plot summary).
- **Edit carefully** for effective use of punctuation, spelling, capitalization, sentence structure, and usage.
- **Revise** for clear and accurate ideas.
- Staple student and parent **signature document to front** of final printed project.
- Maximum length of written response: **two pages**

NOTE: Your typed response is **due the FIRST day** of English class.

Ten points will be deducted per day late.

Directions: For book one, answer the following questions. Please number each answer.

1. Give the **title** and **author** of the book and the **date** you finished reading it. (5 points)
2. Write out **two thoughtful discussion questions** you could ask about this book. Be sure your questions show reflection and are not “yes” or “no” questions. (5 points each; total 10 pts.)
3. Write a brief paragraph **answering** one of your two questions (#2). (10 points)
4. What **two brief** passages should be revisited? Copy them down, note the page numbers, and explain why you chose them. Noteworthy passages could be provocative, controversial,

informative, humorous, sad, ironic, etc. (20 pts. per passage and detailed response; total = 40 pts.)

5. Write a paragraph in which you make **a detailed and thoughtful connection** between this book and another work (movie, play, poem, novel, musical composition, scripture) or real life. (15 points)

Choose 6a or 6b:

6a. Write out **10 vocabulary words** from the book that are new to you and give their **definitions**. Then, **use** each of the words properly in a sentence. **Underline** the vocabulary words. (20 points)

6b. Choose **a theme** from the book read and **give three or more** specific examples of where this theme is seen in the work. (20 points)

Expectations for book two: **Be prepared to take an **in-class multiple choice exam** after reading this book. To be prepared for this exam, be sure you know the following information about your book. You may bring a page of handwritten notes to class on the day the exam is taken.

- ☒ **Characters**
- ☒ **Setting:** the time and place
- ☒ **Context:** the important outside events occurring around the characters that influence the ideas in a literary work (i.e: a war, a government change, racial discrimination, a financial crisis, etc.)
- ☒ **Plot:** the events in a literary work and their sequence
- ☒ **Themes:** a major overarching or underlying idea in a literary work; an idea that an author repeats, revealing it as significant for readers to consider (ex: love, friendship, bitterness, hatred, despair, suffering, marriage, hope, death, faith, etc.)
- ☒ **Motifs:** an image, sound, action, idea or figure that repeats. It has symbolic significance and contributes toward a theme. Though similar to theme, it is not a central idea in a story; instead, it develops or explains a theme
- ☒ **Symbols:** An object representing another to give it a deeper and more significant meaning that is different from its literal sense. (Sometimes an idea, action, or event can have symbolic value) (ex: a dove could symbolize peace; a rose could symbolize hope or love; a chain could symbolize union or imprisonment, etc.)

Important Reminder: Accessing any information through outside sources, **including online material**, is **strictly prohibited** because it defeats the purpose of the assignment.

Doing so will result in a **zero** for a major project grade.

I read the books: *A Separate Peace* and *Fahrenheit 451*

I read (**no films** or **re-read**) _____% of my two books and answered all of the questions requested before the first day of school.

Student Signature: _____

I confirm that my child completed his/her summer reading and had my approval for both reading books before he/she began reading.

Parent Signature: _____

***Staple this ½ sheet to the front of the final copy**