

# 2010 Summer Reading Assignments

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Required:

1. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
2. *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

This will be the first major grade that you receive for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter in English and Literature. You will be given a test on each novel at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. You must complete the writing assignment below for each of the novels. The assignments will be due the second week of school.

### **Assignment for *The Giver*:**

Write two detailed essays describing the main character, Jonas. One of the essays should be based on physical descriptions of Jonas, and the other essay should be based on the emotional/mental descriptions of him. The description for **each** of the 2 areas must be at least 15 good sentences in length. Use **specific examples** from the text to support your descriptions. Be sure to reference the page numbers of the specific examples with parenthetical citations at the end of the sentence. The parenthetical citation only needs to contain the page number in parentheses. Remember that the punctuation for the sentence goes **AFTER** the parentheses. The essays must be typed, size 12 Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and adhere to MLA format. Failure to follow these directions will result in points being deducted from the essay grade.

### **Assignment for *To Kill a Mockingbird*:**

For this assignment please select one of the following characters from the novel: Scout, Jem, Dill, Atticus, Calpurnia, Mayella Ewell or Tom Robinson. After selecting your character, follow the directions outlined below. Failure to follow these directions will result in points being deducted from the essay grade.

1. There are two worksheets to print out. One is the “**Student Planning Sheet**” and the other is “**Identifying Character Traits.**” The “**Identifying Character Traits**” sheet is for reference only – there is nothing to complete on this one.
2. From the “**Identifying Character Traits**” worksheet, you are to pick 3 different character traits that you feel represent your character. For each trait chosen, you need to find three pieces of evidence in the text to support your trait.
3. On the “**Student Planning Sheet,**” write down the three traits that you chose in the first column (the Character Trait column). In the second column (**Key Decision**), write a brief summary about what your evidence is. In the third column (Page #), write the page number that your evidence appears on. In the fourth column (What this tells the reader...) write a brief explanation of how the evidence supports the trait that you chose.
4. **After you finish the “Student Planning Sheet,” use this to help you write a 5-paragraph essay about your character.** Don’t forget that a 5-paragraph essay contains an Introduction with a thesis statement, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. The thesis statement should list the three traits that you have chosen, and it should be the last sentence of your introductory paragraph. Be sure to use the evidence that you found in the text to support your ideas. This should be typed, double-spaced, and in size 12, Times New Roman font.

At the end of this assignment, you will turn in a Student Planning Sheet and a typed 5-paragraph essay. If you have questions about this assignment, please email Mrs. Crabtree or Mrs. Lyon.

## Student Planning Sheet

As you read the novel, use this sheet to record information about the character. Include information about key decisions and/or events that help shape the character into the person he or she is. Please print this sheet and turn it in with your Summer Reading work. Failure to include this sheet will result in loss of points.

Title of Novel \_\_\_\_\_

Name of character being analyzed \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Character Trait<br/>“List three<br/>applicable traits</b> | <b>Key Decision<br/>and/or Event that<br/>Shows the<br/>Character Trait</b> | <b>Page #<br/>that<br/>supports<br/>this</b> | <b>What this tells the Reader About<br/>the Character</b> |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1.   |   |  |   |
|  |   |  |   |
|  |   |  |   |
| 2.   |   |  |   |
|  |   |  |   |
|  |   |  |   |
| 3.   |   |  |   |
|  |   |  |   |
|  |   |  |   |