

## Chicopee High School

### Summer Reading Assignment

### GRADES 10, 11, & 12

Have you ever read a page, or a chapter, and realized that you did not comprehend what you just read? Everyone has had this experience and it can be quite frustrating, but you have probably learned by now that the best way to read a book is *not* to simply open the book and let your eyes just see the words on the page. Instead, questioning, recalling, identifying and reflecting increases our understanding. These techniques, or interactions, increase our ability to remember what we read.

In order to get the most out of the summer reading books and to best prepare for the summer reading assessment in September, you will be using the interactive reading strategies that you have been practicing English as you complete the summer reading.

**Directions:** As you read your choice summer reading books (**two** for **College Preparatory** students and **three** if you are taking **Honors** level English), you are going to keep a two-column reading log for each book.

#### **To set up the log:**

1. Fold a sheet of lined paper in half, or draw a line down the middle.
2. Use the left column to record names of characters, themes, symbols, morals and quotations.
3. Use the right column to record your reactions and opinions (commentary) of the items in the left column, which would include any questions you have.

On the back of these instructions, there is an example of a completed reading log for *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton. Use this sample log as a model as you work on your own.

\*\*\*The reading logs (**one for each book that you read**) will be collected when you come to school in September and will count for 50% of your grade for the summer reading assignment, which is 10% of your first term grade in English. The good news is that your teachers will let you use your reading logs to complete your summer reading test (the other 50%), so take the logs seriously.

#### **Minimum requirements for each reading log:**

- List FIVE main characters with some reflection. Who are they and what do you think of them?
- List TWO themes with some reflection. What is the author saying about people in general?
- List TWO symbols with some reflection. What is the larger meaning and the representation of the object?
- List TWO morals with some reflection. What lesson is the author trying to teach readers?
- Write out TEN cited (page number) quotations (phrases, sentences) with *your* explanation of their importance. This reflection should be a minimum of six sentences per quotation.
- These notes **must be handwritten**, not typed.
- These notes need to be thorough and thoughtful. Consider them an opportunity to make a good impression as a hard-working student.



## Vocabulary Definitions to Assist in Summer Reading Log

**THEME:** A main idea that spans throughout the story and can be applied to most people's thoughts and actions. It is not specific to the characters in the story.

For Example, a main theme in *The Outsiders* is that it is dangerous to judge a person's personality based on his/her physical appearance (how one looks).

**SYMBOL/SYMBOLISM:** A symbol in a literary work is a person, place, or object that represents something beyond itself.

For Example, a main symbol in *The Outsiders* is: Ponyboy's Hair. The Greaser's hair is a distinct feature of their social class. It separates them from the clean-cut Soc's identity. At one point in the novel, a Soc asks Ponyboy if he wants a haircut, thus taking away the identity of Ponyboy's character. When Ponyboy and Johnny are on the run, they must change their identity by cutting and coloring their hair, which ultimately changes who they are.

**MORAL:** A moral is the lesson that is learned within the literary work.

For Example, in *The Outsiders* Johnny recognizes the moral while reading Robert Frost's poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay," as innocence only lasting for a short amount of time. People grow up too quickly, which ultimately causes them to lose their innocence. Johnny and Ponyboy lost their innocence when they killed Bob and were forced to run away.

**CHARACTER:** A character is a person who takes part in the action of a story, novel, or a play. Sometimes characters can be animals or imaginary creatures.

For Example, in *The Outsiders*, Ponyboy is a major character who undergoes many changes over the course of the novel. He is in high school living with his two older brothers as his guardians. He is a member of the group, the Greasers. By the end of the novel, Ponyboy realizes that even though his brothers are tough on him they really do love him.