

SUMMER READING 2020-2021

ALL STUDENTS:

Your task is to read and respond to TWO books:

- Both books must be selected from the grade-appropriate school reading list that is attached.
- Specific written responses are required for EACH book and are explained below. These assignments will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail scale. Any student who does not receive two Passing grades will not be given credit for his/her current English class.

You will receive an email about how and where to submit your summer reading essays the week that school begins. You will submit your essays to Canvas. There will be no written test in homeroom this year. All essays can be written at home and submitted to Canvas by Monday, September 14, 2020.

Assignment:

You will be asked to respond to TWO of the following prompts, ONE for each of the books you have selected. *You are allowed use the same prompt for both books.* You should respond to one of the following prompts in an essay format for each book. To cover the question adequately, you will need to write an essay, at least three paragraphs in length, containing a clear introduction, explanatory discussion, and conclusion.

1. Discuss the author's purpose (think "theme") and how that purpose is ultimately revealed to the reader through characters and plot. Use **specific references** from the book to support your statements. *(If you are unsure what "theme" means, check this via dictionary.com – DO NOT SIMPLY SUMMARIZE THE BOOK!)*
2. Discuss how the book you have chosen for this essay connects with your life. Consider the characters and their experiences; consider what the characters learned from these experiences and how they affected their lives. Explain, using **specific references** from the book to support your ideas.
3. Using the book you have selected, discuss with **supporting references**, three facts or ideas, which were surprising or puzzling to you. **Do not discuss general knowledge facts or information which anyone can learn through reading newspapers, listening to the news, through watching television, and/or through studies in school. What you discuss must be something you did not know before reading the book.** You must explain why these were surprising or puzzling to you. *(This prompt is best for nonfiction books such as biographies, memoirs, histories. You should not use it with fiction books.)*

You are encouraged to read carefully and with these questions in mind. Please note that all essays will be checked for plagiarism. Use your own thoughts and your own words. You will be held to the rules of the SJVHS Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy.