

9th Lit/Comp Summer Reading

College Prep Students: Choose any book out of either column below to read this summer. Only one book total is required.

Honors Students: Choose two books to read this summer. One must be from column B, the other can be from either column.

Column A

Among The Hidden (Hadix)
Rash (Hautman)
Speak (Anderson)
The Devil's Arithmetic (Yolen)
Yellow Flag (Lipsyte)

Column B

The Book Thief (Zusak)
Bleachers (Grisham)
Eragon (Paolini)
Vanishing Act (Piccolt)

Abstracts

Among The Hidden (Hadix)

Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside.

Rash (Hautman)

In the late twenty-first century Bo Marsten is unjustly accused of causing a rash that plagues his entire high school. He loses it, and as a result, he's sentenced to work in the Canadian tundra, at a pizza factory that's surrounded by hungry polar bears. Bo finds prison life to be both boring and dangerous, but it's nothing compared to what happens when he starts playing on the factory's highly illegal football team.

The Book Thief (Zusak)

Death, a sardonic and articulate character who is afraid of humans, narrates this WWII coming-of-age story about faith, love, hope amidst tragedy.

Speak (Anderson)

Since the beginning of the school year, high school freshman Melinda has found that it's been getting harder and harder for her to speak out loud: "My throat is always sore, my lips raw.... Every time I try to talk to my parents or a teacher, I sputter or freeze.... It's like I have some kind of spastic laryngitis." What could have caused Melinda to suddenly fall mute? Could it be due to the fact that no one at school is speaking to her because she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-summer party?

The Devil's Arithmetic (Yolen)

Hannah thinks tonight's Passover Seder will be the same as always. Little does she know that this year she will be mysteriously transported into the past where only she knows the horrors that await as she returns to 1942 Poland.

Yellow Flag (Lipsyte)

In any race, there are drivers and, at the front of the pack, there are racers. In the final laps, it's the racer who moves his car through the sweet spot, picks off the competition, and drives through a hole to win. In Kyle's family, his older brother, Kris, has always been the racer. Now Kris is out of commission, injured, and Kyle has no choice but to drive. Does he want to drive just long enough to keep Kris's seat warm, or does he want to race—and win?

Bleachers (Grisham)

With *Bleachers* John Grisham departs again from the legal thriller to experiment with a character-driven tale of reunion, broken high school dreams, and missed chances.

Eragon (Paolini)

The first in a trilogy, when Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight his simple life is shattered, and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic, and power.

Vanishing Act (Piccolt)

With *Vanishing Acts*, Jodi Piccolt explores how life -- as we know it -- might not turn out the way we imagined; how the people we've loved and trusted can suddenly change before our very eyes; how the memory we thought had vanished could return as a threat. Once again, Piccolt handles an astonishing and timely topic with understanding, insight, and compassion.

Assignment

All students will complete 15 entries in a journal based on their chosen book(s). College Prep students will only complete a 15-entry journal for one book. Honors students will complete one 15-entry journal for **each** book read (2 total).

Format

You can create your own journal using notebook paper or use a thin spiral notebook. Use the chart below to draw your own, or you may re-create this chart using Microsoft Word. On the left side, list quotations, questions, summaries, etc. In the middle, write the date that you write your entry and the pages you read. On the right side, write personal reactions to the text that may include the following:

- Associations to other texts or events
- Your feelings/ thoughts about the ideas, tone and or style of the work
- Words or passages you think are important
- Images that stand out
- Repeated or important ideas or symbols
- Characters you think are interesting or important
- How issues or characters in the book relate to your life

Length Requirement: To receive an A, you must have 15 entries, 1 paragraph (150 words) each.

Create a creative cover for your journal. It will be graded on thoroughness, effort, length, and neatness. See example:

Quotations, Questions, and Summaries	Date of Entry/ Pages Read	Personal Reactions to the Book
The section was about Jillian and her relationship with her father. She is furious about the fact that her father got remarried just months after her mother died.	June 6 th Pages 18-57	I can completely see Jillian's point of view in this section. I would be furious with my father if he'd done something similar; although to look at it from her father's perspective – he was probably grieving and didn't know how to handle his wife's death. I can't imagine being married for a long time then losing a spouse. It would be extremely difficult. This particular part of this book reminds me of "Cold Sassy Tree" and how the grandfather married a woman much younger just a few weeks after his wife died.