



Hillel Day School of Boca Raton Eighth Grade English Summer Reading List 2011

Directions: For the summer reading assignment, you need to read **three** of the following six books.

- Use the provided list to make your selection.
- Please purchase the novels instead of checking them out from the library as you will be asked to have your texts in class during the early weeks of the school year.
- Be a careful reader, **highlighting** and **annotating your text** so you are prepared for the literary activities we will engage in prior to the **writing tasks** and **essay assessments** administered on the books you have read.
- For **each** novel selected, you must also complete the **pre-writing assignment** enclosed in this summer reading packet. A copy of the pre-writing assignment can also be located in a downloadable form on the EdLine homepage.
- Enjoy your reading!
- Have a fantastic summer!

1. *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen (ISBN: 0440419395)

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

2. *Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery* by John Feinstein (ISBN: 0553494600)

Danny Jordan is one of two lucky winners of the U.S. Basketball Writer's Association's contest for aspiring journalists. What is his prize? A trip to New Orleans and a coveted press pass for the Final Four. It is a basketball junkie's dream-come-true! But there is a twist. There are just forty-eight hours to figure out who is blackmailing one of MSU's star players... and why.

3. *The Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry (ISBN: 0440229499)

Often considered a companion volume to *The Giver*, *The Gathering Blue* tells the story of a barbaric society of the future where a crippled orphan girl named Kira, with a talent for weaving, is given a task that no other community member can fill. With this task comes privileges and her own survival, but she must keep secrets about her world that no one can ever discover.

4. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain (ISBN: 0141321105)

Tom Sawyer, an orphan, lives on the banks of the Mississippi River more than 100 years ago during a time when slavery still existed. When Tom is not trying to show off for the cutest girl in school, Becky Thatcher, he is off with his best friend, Huck Finn, fishing, playing with frogs, or pretending to be a pirate. But when the pair witnesses a terrible murder, Tom and Huck's adventures take a thrilling turn.

5. *Izzy Willy-Nilly* by Cynthia Voigt (ISBN: 1416903399)

Izzy has never been one to complain. She is the nice girl from a family that believes good manners are essential to facing any situation. Even after a car accident leaves her disabled, she is determined to hide the fact that she is hurting. It takes Rosamunde, a girl who seems to care nothing for a set of good manners, to forcibly disrupt Izzy's life and help her face her changed existence.

6. *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank (ISBN: 0553296981)

Anne Frank, a Jewish girl in her early teens, uses the space of a diary's blank page to describe the joys and torments of daily life as well as her typical adolescent thoughts throughout the two years she spends in hiding with her family during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

*Note: This document is
also available on the
EdLine homepage!*

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Eighth Grade English

Summer Reading Pre-Writing Assignment

Name: _____

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

Directions: Use the space provided to **answer the questions** below, writing **neatly and legibly**.

- Write your answers in **complete sentences**.
- Give **page numbers** where possible.
- **Highlight** and **tab** your book, particularly where you locate responses to questions.
- Turn in this assignment to your English teacher on the **second day of class, 8/23**.
- Do your best!

Character

- A **character** is a person or animal who takes part in a literary work.
- Almost every book revolves around one or more main characters, called **protagonists**.
 - The protagonist changes from the beginning of the novel to the end.

Who is the **protagonist** of this novel? (If perhaps there is more than one protagonist, pick!)

Characteristics and Traits

- A **characteristic** or **trait** is a feature that helps identify or distinguish a character from the other characters in the story. In a story, the characteristics of the protagonist are what set him or her apart from the other characters in the story.
- Characteristics can be **external**, like a character's appearance.
 - External traits can be anything from height and hair color to abilities and talents.
 - Some external traits are more important than others! Choose one that is important to the story!

Identify one of the protagonist's important **external traits**.

- Why is this trait important in the novel?
-

- Write down a sentence or passage from the novel where this trait is described:
-

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Characteristics and Traits

- Characteristics can be also **internal**, like a character's personality.
 - Internal traits are a character's emotions, beliefs, attitudes, or fears; internal traits are what make a character's personality unique.
 - Some internal traits are more important than others! Choose one that is important to the story!

*Identify one of the protagonist's important **internal traits**.*

-
- *Why is this trait important in the novel?*

-
- *Write down a sentence or passage from the novel where this trait is described:*
-
-
-

Goal

- In most stories, the protagonist has a **goal**—something that he or she wants to accomplish.
- A character can have more than one goal, and a character's goals can change throughout the story.
 - Most protagonists have one main (most important) goal.
 - A goal isn't necessarily something external or internal!

*What is the protagonist's **goal**?*

*Why is the **goal** important to the protagonist?*

*What is stopping the protagonist from reaching this **goal**?*

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Conflict

- Most protagonists have a main (most important) **conflict**: an enemy, obstacle, or problem that he or she has to overcome. Many stories have more than one conflict.
- The main conflict of the story is usually what stops the protagonist from reaching his or her goal.
 - Just like the goal, the main conflict isn't necessarily something external or physical!

*What is the main **conflict** of this novel?*

*How does this **conflict** stop the protagonist from reaching his or her goal?*

Resolution

- In most stories, the protagonist's conflicts and experiences cause him or her to change or learn a valuable lesson. The part of the story where the character learns this valuable lesson or realizes that he or she has changed is called the **resolution**.
 - The resolution is the final outcome of the story.
 - It's where all the loose ends are tied up!

Describe how the protagonist changes from the beginning to the end of the story.

Does the protagonist learn any important lessons? If so, what?

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Theme

- The **theme** of the story is a broad statement about life or human nature. The theme is not *what* happens in the story (that’s the plot!) – the theme is *why* it matters.
 - Ask yourself what’s the author’s point – why did he or she write the story?
 - Consider what the protagonist learns in the story; often that’s a clue to the story’s theme!
 - A story can have more than one theme, but most stories have one **main theme**.

What do you think is the main theme of this novel?

Why do you think this is the theme?

- *Write down a sentence or passage from the novel that relates to or suggests this theme:*

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- Characteristics can be **external**, like a character's appearance.
 - External traits can be anything from height and hair color to abilities and talents.
 - Some external traits are more important than others! Choose one that is important to the story!

Identify one of the protagonist's important **external traits**.

- *Why is this trait important in the novel?*
-

- *Write down a sentence or passage from the novel where this trait is described:*
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Characteristics and Traits

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