

Shawnee Mission West Language Arts
Honors ELA 1 Summer Jump Start Reading 2024

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While I will be out of the building, I will check my email periodically over the summer; so, if you have questions, feel free to email me and I will get back to you when I can.

It is recommended that before class begins in August, you have read the novel below and completed the attached work that goes with it. As you read, I would recommend using sticky notes to “mark” things in the book that stand out to you as being interesting or confusing or important. I also **highly** suggest having the ability to keep this book from when you read it over the summer through the end of September—we will be using the novel in class.

Reading a summer novel allows students to get a head start on our first novel study when we return to school in August, rather than reading the entire novel during the first two weeks of your high school career. Students are not required to read or do work over the summer, but you may choose to do so in order to get ahead and / or lighten the workload at the start of the year. If you are worried you might forget about the assignment, I would suggest setting some reminders on your phone throughout the summer as check points along the way—especially in July to remind yourself to at least read the book if you haven’t done so by then.

You may complete the attached work on paper to be handed in physically or on a computer to be turned in on Canvas at the start of the year. This work will be due after the first two full weeks of school on Friday, August 30, 2024.

Your Task: Choose a historical fiction novel about the World War 2 time period. There are so *many* different topics being written about this time period, not just Holocaust focused, so please don’t feel pigeon-holed into that topic. Here are some possibilities, but you are NOT limited to this list; find a book that looks interesting to you.

- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *The Faithful Spy* by John Hendrix
- *The Taster* by V.S. Alexander
- *The Auschwitz Tattooist* by Heather Morris
- *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys
- *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys
- *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly
- *Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
- *Cody Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein
- *Prisoner of Night and Fog* by Anne Blankman
- *The Berlin Boxing Club* by Rob Sharenow
- *The Librarian of Auschwitz* by Salva Rubio
- *The White Rose* by V.S. Alexander
- *The Storyteller* by Jodi Piccolt
- *The Zookeeper’s Wife* by Diane Ackerman
- *Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines* by Joseph Bruchac
- *They Called Us Enemy* By George Takei
- **NOT ALLOWED:** *Diary of Anne Frank* or *Night*

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Directions

First, and most importantly, read the book—and hopefully enjoy it.

Part 1: Complete each question. Remember, they can be typed or handwritten on notebook paper. **Do not** try to write your answers on this handout—there is not enough space to do the answers justice. Be sure to give a complete answer to each question; bullet points are absolutely acceptable.

1. What are *at least* 5 discussion worthy things that happened in your chosen novel?
2. What happened in the book that didn't make sense to you? (if nothing, what choices did the author make to ensure you had no questions)
3. How did the setting affect the story?
4. Which character was your favorite and why?
5. Which character did you NOT hear from but wish you had—if you could change the point of view, whose would it be to and why?
6. What was the most important part of the book and why?

Part 2: Create a Dialectical Journal—a chart where in the left column, you give the quote and the right column has your explanation about why the quote is important.

As you read, select 6-8 quotes from the novel that stand out for some reason related to the plot. Give the quote, word for word, and cite it in MLA format (ex: (Hinds 57))

For each quote, you will then give a literary analysis—think: WHY is this quote important to what happens in the novel, HOW is this showing character development, HOW does the quote move the plot along, etc. For an analysis to truly be successful, it cannot be done in less than 4 sentences.

Example of a Dialectical Journal

Quote	Analysis
"Place the quote here word for word as it is in the book. Avoid quoting an entire paragraph. Often times, 1-2 sentences is plenty" (Hinds 64).	Your explanation about why the quote is important goes here. Caution: avoid simply re-stating or paraphrasing the quote, but instead focus on why it is important to the novel/plot.