English 9 Honors - Summer Assignment 2026-2027

Required Reading – CHOOSE ONE

- ***A Separate Peace*** by John Knowles (School Provided)
- ***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd

As you read, you should pay careful attention to the development of the "coming of age" theme. (Growing up and maturing through experiences and lessons learned)

*****You can also choose a work of your own, but it must be grade-level appropriate, it must have a coming-of-age theme, and you must get it approved by Mr. McCormack*****

In addition, you need to complete the following assignment, which will be collected the first week we return to school in September

After reading the book, you will write an essay in which you examine how the "coming-of-age" theme is developed. You will then compare the book to a film that explores the same theme. The purpose of your essay will be to compare and contrast how the same theme is developed in two different "texts". You should use the development of characters and conflicts to illustrate the points of comparison and contrast. This essay should be approximately 250-500 words long.

Suggested Movie titles –

My Girl (1991)
Stand By Me (1986)
Good Will Hunting (1997)
School Ties (1992)
Juno (2007)
The Breakfast Club (1985)
The Sandlot (1993)
Mean Girls (2004)
Boyhood (2014)
Inside Out (2015)
Moana (2017)

Many of these titles contain explicit language and some mature content. All students must have a parent or guardian complete the permission slip at the bottom of this form.

You may also suggest a title of your own, but you must get approval from Mr. McCormack.

Essay Guidelines:

MLA Format-You must include an MLA heading, in-text citations and a works cited page. The online writing lab at Purdue University is a great source for MLA format and instruction.

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

A hard copy of the essay will be submitted in class when we return in September.

You will discuss submitting the work to turnitin.com with your 9H teacher on the first day of school, so make sure you save the file!

Please feel free to email over the summer with any questions:

jmccormack@seaford.k12.ny.us

You must return this portion of this paper to your teacher to receive credit for your work.

Student's Name _____

Movie Watched _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____