

B-CC HS English Grade 9 (On-level and Honors) Summer Reading Assignments

Background

Choose two books to read from the genres in the list provided with this handout by B-CC HS Media Specialist, Mr. Baczkowski, and the B-CC Grade 9 English teachers. To help you determine how to choose a book you would enjoy reading, please view the video message provided by B-CC HS as you review the list of genres:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yad79wzy2Bw>.

Assignment

A. For each book, you are required to:

1. Write a rationale for choosing your book. Include why you chose to read the book.
(see next page for an example)
 - Typed
 - Approx. 150 words

2. Write a one-paragraph response to one of the following.
 - A. Why would you recommend this book? Include specific examples from your book to illustrate your points.
 - B. What is the genre of your book? How is it a good example of that genre? Use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.
 - C. Describe the main conflict in your book. How is it resolved? Use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points. Respond to this resolution.
 - D. Why is setting so important in your book? Use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.
 - E. How is your book relevant to present day culture? Use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.
 - F. Would you describe the main character as a hero? Explain our answer and use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.
 - Typed
 - Approx. 150 words

B. For **ONE** of your chosen books:

1. Choose a character in the book
2. Make a list of 5 character traits
3. For each character trait, find textual evidence (a quotation) that demonstrates the character trait
4. Write a short story about the character in a different period of his or her life.
 - minimum of two pages, typed and double-spaced
 - should include an original, creative title
 - the story should reflect the character traits listed above

Sample Rationale:

Rationale for reading Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

I have already read Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. I loved the description in those books and the creativity of the author in describing the magical elements in the characters' lives. I was hooked by the story also. I like books with a lot of action, and I knew that this book would provide suspense and intrigue. I like fantasy books because they combine an interesting story with such creative elements. I chose this book to read because I wanted to find out what happened to Harry, Ron, and Hermione. I feel like I've gotten to know them after reading two of the Harry Potter books and I wanted to find out more about their lives. so I decided to read Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows. I have seen some of the Harry Potter movies. Although the movies are good, they are not as good as the books because they leave too much out of the movie that is important. I wanted to read this book before I saw the movie.

B-CC English 9 (On-Level and Honors) Summer Reading: Genres

“Genre” is a fancy French word that means “type” or “kind.” When we talk about literary genres, we’re talking about the type or kind of information or story that makes up that written work. Very few books can be crammed into only one genre, but below are some general descriptions of the major types of literary genres that can help you select a good summer reading book. Along with a description of possible genres are some popular authors with teens whose writing often fall into these genre categories. **Please use this list of genres and authors to select TWO books to read before you return to school in August 2011. See the accompanying handout (above) for specific information on the assignment and the reading and writing required. Pick something that appeals to YOU!**

Fiction (A.K.A. untrue stories)

- **Realistic Fiction**—the characters, the setting, and the encountered issues all seem real and plausible. **Possible Authors:** Walter Dean Myers, Jodi Picoult, Sara Dessen, Ellen Wittlinger, Cecily Von Ziegesar, Lisi Harrison, Marcus Zusak,
- **Science Fiction**—often takes place in the future or on another planet and involves technology and gadgets based on real science. **Possible Authors:** Orson Scott Card, Nancy Farmer, Michael Crichton, Isaac Asimov, Malcolm Rose, Scott Westerfield
- **Fantasy Fiction**—anything can happen in worlds that might have dragons, faeries, and wizards. **Possible Authors:** Tamora Pierce, Stephanie Meyer, Chris Paolini, Robert Jordan, Philip Pullman, P.C. Cast, Neil Gaimon, Terry Pratchett, J.R.R. Tolkien, Amelia Atwater-Rhodes
- **Horror Fiction**—scary stories that might include supernatural characters like ghosts or unstoppable monsters like a rabid, possessed dog. **Possible Authors:** Annette Curtis Klause, Stephen King, Darren Shan, Jeanne C. Stein, Bram Stoker, Wes Craven
- **Historical Fiction**—the events, characters, and setting are based on a real historical time period that could date as far back as the ancient Egyptians to as

recent as the 9/11 terror attacks. **Possible Authors:** Philippa Gregory, Patrick O'Brien, Jeff Shaara, Sharon Draper.

- **Action/Adventure/Thriller**—fast-paced stories where the characters are constantly moving from one tense situation to the next. **Possible Authors:** Dan Brown, James Patterson, Cory Doctorow, Catherine Jinks, Stephen Cole, Eoin Colfer, Anthony Horowitz, E.L. Young, Tom Clancy, John Grisham
- **Mystery/Suspense**—the main characters have a central problem or crime to solve and the story takes several twists and turns before coming to an end. **Possible Authors:** Lois Duncan, Robert Parker, Sara Shepard, Robin Wasserman, Elmore Leonard
- **Romance**—love stories **Possible Authors:** Nora Roberts,
- **Sports**—characters play or the story centers around sports games or matches. **Possible Authors:** John Feinstein, Robert Lipsyte, Paul Volponi, Mike Lupica, Carl Deuker

Non-Fiction (A.K.A. true, fact-based books)

There are infinite number of non-fiction topics that you could read about, so the list below are just some popular topics that could help you learn more about a topic that interests you.

- **Biographies/Autobiographies**—factual accounts and stories of a famous or interesting person's life.
- **History**—the written record of the past. **Possible Authors:** James Bradley, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Stephen Ambrose, David McCullough.
- **Philosophy**—thinking about thinking.
- **Psychology**—study of the mind. **Possible Authors:** Malcolm Gladwell, Stephen Pinker, Sigmund Freud.
- **Political Science**—analyzing our government and the political process. **Possible Authors:** Glenn Beck, Al Franken, Bill O'Reilly, Barack Obama.
- **Social Issues**—exploring the difficult social problems of our world including poverty, crime, addiction, and matters of life and death.
- **Health**—explanations about aspects of human life and why our bodies react a certain way.
- **Science**—explanations of the world from subatomic particles to the entire universe. **Possible Authors:** Stephen Hawking, Carl Sagan.
- **Technology**—descriptions of the machines and gadgets that have changed our lives.
- **Religion**—exploration of the spiritual customs and beliefs of different cultures