

## Magnet English 10 Summer Reading

Please read Bryce Courtenay's novel *The Power of One* before the start of the school year. This novel offers a wonderful example of a *bildungsroman*, a German term signifying a "novel of formation".

Esteemed literary scholar M.H. Abrams defines the *bildungsroman* this way:

"The subject of these novels is the development of the protagonist's mind and character, in the passage from childhood through varied experiences—and often through a spiritual crisis—into maturity and the recognition of his or her identity and role in the world" (132).

In a *bildungsroman*, readers actively witness the experiences, incidents, relationships, ideas, thoughts, and beliefs that shape the intellectual, physical, and sometimes spiritual development of the main character. Keep this in mind as you journey with Peekay through the pages of this novel.

### **WARNING: Objects in literature are more significant than they appear!**

Apply your critical reading skills to this novel. There are caves, waterfalls, flowers, snakes, fire, music, a hero, a journey—and, boxing! Literature is an intricate tapestry, so examine the symbolic and metaphorical threads essential to the narrative's construction.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

As part of your interaction with Courtenay's novel, please prepare two (2) typed response journal entries that reflect your identity as a writer. These entries are an opportunity to exhibit your range as a writer: reflect, analyze, offer close readings, connect across texts (intertextuality), and connect on a personal level. Aim to make a good first impression with these response entries. Please adhere to the following guidelines for your journal entries:

- MLA format (double-spaced, 12-point font, left-justified, heading, parenthetical citations)
- Each journal entry should be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length (~ 750 words) – no longer than 2 pages!
  - **One (1)** of your entries should be analytical in nature and formal: analysis of a symbol or theme, close reading of a passage with an emphasis on language and its effects.
  - **One (1)** of your entries should be reflective in nature and less formal: personal connections, musings, insights- communicate *in your voice*.
- Please bring hard copies of your response journal entries to class on the first day of school.

We look forward to getting to know you soon!

Mr. Oakes & Mr. Koenig