

SOA Advanced Literary Arts 9



Summer Assignment

Rationale for Summer Reading

In the York County School Division, we believe summer reading should empower students to develop an appreciation for reading and enable them to become lifelong readers and learners. The required Literary Arts summer reading assignment allows students to broaden their scope and knowledge of novels and other literary works, and it provides an opportunity for students to engage in critical thinking and analysis of texts. For students who continue to take advanced courses, summer assignments develop progressively each year. By senior year, students are expected to be fully sophisticated in their knowledge and use of the major elements and characteristics of literature.

Required Summer Reading

York County students enrolled in **SOA Advanced Literary Arts 9** for the next school year are required to **read the two full-length works listed below** prior to the beginning of school in September. Copies of these books may be available in the schools, at public libraries, and at local bookstores.

Fiction (Use *SOA Literary Arts 9* Reader Response and Reflection questions)

Book 1: [*The Secret Life of Bees*](#) by Sue Monk Kidd

Drama (Use *SOA Literary Arts 9* Reader Response and Reflection questions)

Book 2: [*A Raisin in the Sun*](#) by Lorraine Hansberry

Required Summer Writing

Because SOA Advanced Literary Arts 9 is a double-block course that counts as two separate weighted credits, students will also keep a **Writer's Journal** (may be typed or handwritten) in addition to reading the two assigned texts. We will revise and build upon these entries throughout the first quarter, so think of your journal as a springboard for upcoming literary adventures at School of the Arts. Rather than simply recount your daily experiences, your writer's journal should include at least the following elements: 2 poems, brainstorming or a draft of a new story, a response to a favorite artwork, 2 anecdotes (~250 words) recounting 2 of the most interesting events of your summer, a collection of quotes from your summer, and at least one sketch or photograph you take. Feel free to write more and add different elements to let us get to know who you are as a creative thinker.

Instructions

- During the summer, students will read two full-length works.
- For each book read, students will complete a separate Reader Response and Reflection sheet.
- Students will turn in their two completed Reader Response and Reflection sheets to their teacher on the first day of Literary Arts class in September.
- In September, students will participate in a class literary circle to engage students in discussion to prepare them to write an in-class essay on one of the two books they read. Students may use their completed Reader Response and Reflection sheets and their book to write the in-class essay.
- During the summer, students will keep a Writer's Journal with the elements listed above.
- The summer assignment is designed to be completed by the student with minimal assistance.
- Assignments must be students' **original and individual work. Late work will not be accepted.**

Possible topics for the in-class essay are provided below.

1. Authors often create realistic, complex characters by showing how they change gradually over time or suddenly as a result of joyful or traumatic events. Explain how the protagonist in your text changes throughout the story, either positively or negatively.
2. A good book will often address several universal subjects, such as love, war, friendship, loss, growing up, etc. Over the course of the work, a theme will emerge about that subject. Pick one theme this book addresses and explain what readers learn about that subject from reading this selection. Your theme should have application not only to your book but to the world outside of the book.

Evaluation

The summer reading grades will include the following:

- Quiz grade for the Reader Response and Reflection (See rubric)
- Quiz grade for the Writer's Journal (Teachers will provide rubric in September.)
- Quiz grade for the timed in-class essay (Teachers will provide rubric in September.)

The three grades related to the summer assignment will be included in the students' first interim report.

Copies of the summer assignments are available in the guidance office at each high school and on the YCSD website: http://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/studentInfo/summer_readingListsEnglish.aspx .

For general questions about the summer assignment, please contact the following teacher at **your** school. Since most questions regarding the summer assignments occur at a time when teachers are away from their classrooms, please understand that teachers will provide a response to emails at their earliest convenience.

- School of the Arts students should contact: Dr. Renee Kingan rkingan@ycsd.york.va.us