

Notre Dame Academy Summer Reading Titles and Project Directions 2010 for Grade 10

Required reading title:

10th grade *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

This book should be available at local libraries and bookstores (**Barnes and Noble** and **Borders** have agreed to post our titles and have them available for purchase), although there may be a long wait-list at the library. Get on the list as soon as possible if you plan on using a library copy.

Once you have finished the book, please follow the directions below to complete your project, which will be due on the first day the entire school has classes in August.

THIS PROJECT MUST BE TYPED!

Sophomore Summer Reading Journal/Quotes/Reflective letter project

1. You will receive a collection of six quotes from your assigned novel. For each quote you will write a paragraph of at least five complete sentences in which you will explain to your teacher how the quote/passage 'fits' into the novel. (Does it add to the character development, the plot line, details of setting; is it symbolic?) Discuss the importance of the quote/ passage to the book's message, meaning, or theme.
2. Next, select 'The Quote of the Book' passage (a different one from the six provided): that one passage or quote that captures the heart- the true meaning- of the novel for you. In a well-written paragraph (of at least eight complete sentences) explain exactly HOW this passage is the one perfect quote from the book.
(Think of this as the one passage you would absolutely want saved if you lost your book).
3. Finally, you will write a REFLECTIVE LETTER (1-2 pages, double-spaced) about reading this novel and creating your quotes paper. Write to your teacher about the thoughts and feelings, observations and new insights you experienced while reading. Include thoughts about how you reacted to your quotes as a reader. Make your teacher/reader understand WHY you reacted as you did. You may consider these questions for your letter:
 - Why do the passages impress, intrigue, horrify, or puzzle you?
 - Do you find the author's use of language appealing or powerful? Do the passages jump off the page as a great descriptive passage?
 - Do they prompt a strong response from you as you read them? Do they present themselves as so well written that you just love how they sound? Is the language beautiful, descriptive, graphic?
 - Are they particularly meaningful? Are they indicative of a high point or turning point in the book?
 - Do you find yourself agreeing/disagreeing with the ideas expressed?
 - How do the quotes/passages remind you of a situation you have experienced?

- Why do the passages make you laugh or make you sad or something else?
- How does the author or the character raise interesting questions or issues?
- How do the passages challenge or expand your thinking?

You are not limited to the above list, nor do you have to answer all of the above. But your responses to the quotes should clearly explain to your teacher WHY these passages mean something to you, WHY they caught your attention.

Some other things to think about for your letter may include:

- What did you work the hardest on or struggle with in doing this assignment?
- Share what you think you did well: what really worked.
- What, in your opinion, are the author's or the story's greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- Discuss in what ways the novel is similar to your life.
- Explore what value, besides entertainment, this book has.
- Share your overall impressions of the novel.

Your Reflective Letter is your chance to “talk” with your teacher about your book, your project, and your experiences in completing this assignment. Your letter should make your teacher see your work – and your learning- through your eyes.

So...to sum up: On the first day the entire school has classes in August, you will be handing in a paper of seven different paragraphs in which you respond to a total of seven quotes, plus a reflective letter (1-2 pages) about your reading/quote experience. This project will be worth about 40 points, so please put forth your best effort!

Finally, you will also be accountable for a project connected with this book once school begins. Your teacher will give you all of the details of this once you get back to school.

Happy reading! May you be awakened to some new and exciting truths! Please feel free to e-mail Mrs. Laura Gallaher (lgallaher@nda.org) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Your English Teachers

***See the quotes on the next page.

*The ideas in this project are borrowed from Anne Arvidson , who presented it as a “Quotes Project” at Atlanta NCTE Convention, October 2009.

THE BOOK THIEF Quotes:

1. “I will never fire a gun. I won’t have to. I will rule with words.”
2. “Even Death has a heart.”
3. “You want to know what I truly look like?/ I’ll help you out. Find yourself a mirror while I continue.”
4. “Sometimes I imagined how everything looked above those clouds, knowing without question that the sun was blond, and the endless atmosphere was a giant blue eye.”
5. “Mystery bores me. It chores me. I know what happens and so do you. It’s the machinations that wheel us there that aggravate, perplex, interest, and astound me.”
6. “Did they deserve any better, these people? How many had actively persecuted others, high on the scent of Hitler’s gaze, repeating his sentences, his paragraphs, his opus? Was Rosa Hubermann responsible? The hider of a Jew? Or Hans? Did they all deserve to die? The children?”

Rubric for Summer Reading Log/Letter for grades 9 & 10

Name _____

- 1. The log includes 6 quotes from the assigned novel with explanatory paragraphs of at least five sentence each, about their significance in the novel.**

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

- 2. The log includes 'The Quote of the Book' and at least 8 sentences that explain how the passage captures the essence of the novel.**

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

- 3. A reflective letter of 1-2 pages is included and thoroughly details the student's insights and experience while reading the book and reacting to the quotes.**

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

- 4. Mechanics, usage, grammar and spelling are in order; directions are followed, and the log/letter are typed.**

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

40 possible points

Teacher Comments: