

Dear Good Hope Upper School Students:

Summer has arrived! Because of this, we need to issue the English department's summer reading requirements. For incoming 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, there will be one required reading title and one required book of your choice. Please answer the questions on the attached worksheets when you've completed your reading. There are separate worksheets, with somewhat different questions, for the required text and for the text of your choice. Your answers to the worksheets will be collected during the first week of class.

You should come to class prepared to discuss the themes of the required text. Please also note that you should read as many books as possible during the summer months. You should aim to read at least a book a week.

**The required text for each class is as follows:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade: *Flowers for Algernon*, by Daniel Keyes.
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade: *All Quiet on the Western Front*, by [Erich Maria Remarque](#).
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade: *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini.
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade: *All the King's Men*, by Robert Penn Warren.

(Note: the books are available in inexpensive editions through [amazon.com](#) and [barnesandnoble.com](#)).

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns at [nedwashburn@yahoo.com](mailto:nedwashburn@yahoo.com) or [mjenkins.ghs@gmail.com](mailto:mjenkins.ghs@gmail.com). Have a great summer!

Ned Washburn, Mallory Jenkins

**Responding to the Assigned Novel**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of novel: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Original year of publication: \_\_\_\_\_

My rating out of 10 (1 is lowest, 10 is highest): \_\_\_\_\_

On separate sheets of paper, please answer the following questions. Do **NOT** use this worksheet – you need much more room for your answers.

**Characterization**

1. Who is the main character?
2. What kind of person is the main character? Copy several quotes to support your statement and include page numbers.
3. List the things you liked best and those you liked least about the main character.
4. Compare yourself to one of the characters in the book. How are you alike or different?
5. Which character in the book changed the most? In what ways did he or she change?

6. Pretend you are the main character in the story. Write a brief description of another character from the main character's point of view.

### **Plot**

7. In *no more than fifty words*, summarize the plot.

8. What is one problem in the story? Which character has this problem? What does he or she do to solve it?

9. Could the story have ended differently? Explain.

10. Copy a quote or passage from the novel (include page number) that is meaningful, interesting, perplexing, or noteworthy in some way. Respond to the quote in your own words. Your response should be thoughtful and should try to draw connections between the text and your own life, other texts, or other social/cultural/historical elements.

### **Responding to a Book of Your Choice**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of pages: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did you choose this book to read?

2. How did the author capture your interest as you began the book?

3. What did the author do to keep your interest as you read further?

4. Are there any similarities between this book and your own life? Explain.

5. What character would you like to be in this book? Explain.

6. What would you and your favorite character talk about in your first conversation? Begin the conversation.

7. Do you think the title fits the book? Why or why not?

8. What questions would you like answered after reading the book?

9. What seems to be the major point the author wants you to remember?

10. Who else should read this book? Why?

11. Who shouldn't read this book? Why?

Handouts adapted from *English Teacher's Survival Guide* by Mary Lou Brandvik.