

Summer Reading

English IV

REQUIRED: *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom

Choose ONE of the novels from the High School Battle of the Books list.

Title	Author
Little Women	Alcott, Louisa May
Fahrenheit 451	Bradbury, Ray
My Antonia	Cather, Willa
The Birchbark House	Erdrich, Louise
Whirligig	Fleischman, Paul
Out of Darkness	Freedman, Russell
Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption	Hillenbrand, Laura
The Secret Life of Bees	Kidd, Sue Monk
Kidnapped	Stevenson, Robert Louis
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Twain, Mark
Homeless Bird	Whelan, Gloria
Night	Wiesel, Elie

Assignment:

Keep a reading response journal of at least ten entries for each book read. Each entry should be approximately 150-300 words in length. The journal should cover the entire book. (Do not worry about “spoilers.” I want to know that you read all the way to the end of the book!) I am attaching some prompts and questions to help you write these entries. You do not have to use all of the prompts.

- a. Entries should be entirely your thinking about the books. Do not use the Internet to search for interpretations or analyses.
- b. Entries may be handwritten or word processed.

All assignments are due the first full week of school.

We will be discussing and completing a unit of study around Boom’s book. It is important that all students complete the reading before classes begin.

Reader Response Journal Prompts

After reading, choose one of the following prompts for your journal entries. Some of the prompts are more creative than others. You may do a prompt no more than three times, but please try to attempt each prompt at least once.

1. After reading, I wonder. . . .
2. Are the characters realistic (do they seem like they could be real people)? Why or why not?
3. Create a timeline of events from what you have read so far.
4. Create a WANTED poster for the antagonist. Remember to include physical and personality traits as well as an image of the character. You may draw the character or use an image from the Internet.
5. Describe a character from the book you would like to meet (which does mean that you think you would like the character, but that you think the character would be interesting). List four questions you would like to ask the character.
6. Describe something you have read (or seen, heard, experienced) that is similar to the events in the book.
7. Describe the major conflict. What side are you on? Why?
8. **Importance of an episode or scene.** Select what you consider the most important episode in the book. Explain briefly what happens, why you think it is important to the section, your reaction to the scene, and why you react this way.
9. **Setting:** What effect does the setting (time, place, social and historical background) have on the characters' thoughts, actions, and choices? What would be YOUR reaction to having to adapt to the character's environment? Why?
10. Create an illustration for the setting of an important scene in the book. Draw the scene and include details that capture the mood of the scene. Explain how the author created the mood in that scene.
11. Describe what was either believable or unbelievable about your reading. Defend your position.
12. **Theme:** Explain an idea or theme—either stated or implied by events, characters, conflicts, etc.—which is meaningful to you. Explain its importance to the book and why you find it meaningful.
13. **Character comparison #1:** Compare yourself to the main character. Point out your similarities and try to account for differences between you and him or her. Considering what you have discovered, what is your reaction to this character? Why? How do you think the character would feel about you?

14. **Character comparison #2:** Compare a character from your book to a character from another work of fiction (novel, play, film, short story). What are the similarities? What are the differences? Which character do you admire more? Why?
15. **Judgment:** Examine a character's actions, values, behavior, etc. with which you disagree. What is happening? Why is the character thinking and/or acting in this way? What do you see wrong with it? Why? What would you suggest as a preferable response or behavior or value?

Format for Your Reading Journal

1. You should write your journal entries AS you read rather than when you have finished the book.
2. Each entry should be on a separate page.
3. Each entry should be dated, list the title and author, and the pages you read. You should also include the number of the prompt.
4. Each entry should be either handwritten, preferably in ink or word-processed in Times New Roman 12-point fonts (or something similar. (Avoid the script fonts, please, as they are difficult to read.)
5. Entries should be between 150 and 300 words, unless the prompt class for some other format, such as a timeline or an illustration. If the prompt calls for a written explanation, include that written portion.

Rubric for Summer Reading Journals

Response is clearly labeled (title, date, prompt number)	1 point
The topic sentence included <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear reference to the author and title• A restatement of the prompt• A brief but purposeful statement of the main idea you will develop and support	5 points
The response is well supported and fully developed; it contains <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least two specific textual references• Explanation of how each piece of evidence relates to the topic• Your reasoning, thinking, connections, conclusions• A complete page of writing (150-300 words)	15 points
Writing is clear and easily understood. Spelling, grammar, and mechanical errors do not cloud the reader's understanding or distract the reader's attention from the content.	4 points