



HISP@CKM

9th Grade Summer Reading List – 2021

Students enrolled in the Humanities and International Studies Program for the 9th grade must read at least two books during the summer. The purpose of summer reading is to prepare you for the reading you will have to do as a HISP student. Belle Coledge Library on South Land Park Drive makes a special effort to have these books available. Used bookstores are another option, as are bookstores such as Avid Reader, Barnes and Noble, etc. You must complete the required reading, but we also encourage you to read additional books both from the list and of your own choosing.

Each incoming student must read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. This novel, in a general sense, tells the story of two best friends at an all-boys preparatory school during the Second World War, the love and envy between them. On a deeper level, it deals with such thematic ideas as: 1) Our personal insecurities and fears create conflicts that otherwise wouldn't be there; 2) We cover up or hide the truth beneath false appearances; and 3) We have trouble accepting ourselves and understanding our identity.

Your assignment will include responding to all of the following prompts in $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 page each. You will need to use at least one quotation from the novel for each response. Each prompt requires you to reference one of the three thematic ideas stated above. Please write the thematic idea at the top of each response. Please also number your responses so it is clear which prompt you are responding to.

1. Choose one character from the novel. Then, by focusing on how that character is described (physical appearance), his/her specific actions, and/or his/her specific dialogue, explain how that character connects to one of the three thematic ideas given above.
2. Choose a specific setting (this can be a specific place such as the marble foyer at the base of the stairs, or the bank of the river where the tree stands; or a more general description, like of the school and its grounds). Then, by focusing closely on the physical descriptions of the setting, explain how that setting connects to one of the three thematic ideas given above.
3. Gene Forrester, the protagonist, is a dynamic character. This means that he changes throughout the course of the book. In what specific way does he change? What causes him to change? Consider the main conflict that Gene faces throughout the novel (a conflict is a struggle between two forces), as his change will be connected to the resolution of this conflict. Pick what you think is the moment that is most crucial to Gene's change, the moment that sparks his change, where the conflict is most intense. Looking closely at how this moment is described, explain how Gene's change connects to one of the three thematic ideas given above.
4. Literature, ultimately, is a reflection of our lives. Choose one of the three thematic ideas listed above and explain how you can see this idea in your life and in the lives of the people around you. Use specific examples from your life, as well as the novel, to illustrate the connections. Don't forget, you still need to reference at least one quotation from the book.

You will also choose one (1) novel from the list on the back to read. Choose a novel you haven't read before, especially if it is a novel that was taught at your middle school. After finishing the book, come up with at least one thematic idea, like those listed above for *A Separate Peace*. Then, answer question number 4 (above) for your choice book, using the thematic idea you came up with. Remember to use specific examples from both your life and the book, including at least one specific quotation from the book. Your response should be 1 – 2 pages in length. DO NOT SUMMARIZE the plot.

All responses, for both *A Separate Peace* and the choice novel, must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman. Do not use any type of folder for either assignment. Do not staple the two assignments together.

In addition to the reading assignments, please watch at least one of the movies from the list underneath the reading list.

If you have questions, please feel free to email Mr. Perry at brian-perry@scusd.edu. Mr. Perry will check his email about once a week throughout the summer. Warning! – if you wait until the end of summer, there is no guarantee that you will receive a response to your question. Please do not procrastinate. **Extra credit will be given to those who turn in their Summer Reading assignments the week before school! Stay tuned for instructions on that process.**