



Incoming 9th Grade Summer Reading Two Assignments

Be sure to read this document in its entirety.

Summer reading serves multiple purposes:

1. Reading helps build confidence as you learn to read more difficult and complex texts.
2. It provides an immediate foundation to discuss literature as a class when you return to school.
3. It will provide a basis of comparison to other works you will be studying throughout the school year.
4. Reading various forms of literature will help prepare you for your studies at college.
5. Reading is good for your brain!

A word about shortcuts to the summer reading:

1. You are to read all books assigned cover to cover.
2. Do not depend on any cliff notes, spark notes or any other shortcuts.
3. When you return to school, you will be participating in additional activities that will indicate whether you read the book.

All 9th Grade English Students:

Assignment 1: *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* (9781401308582) and discussion questions

- ❖ Read *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom
- ❖ Complete the attached discussion questions using complete and thoughtful sentences. For any quotes, please indicate the page number in parentheses.
- ❖ Be prepared for a thorough discussion (a Socratic Seminar, debate, discussion, etc.) on the book when you return to school. It will be clear during the discussion activity whether you read the book or not. A grade will be assigned to this assessment.
- ❖ The discussion questions are due the first full day back at school. Your responses should be handwritten.
- ❖ Work received after the first full day of school will receive 50% credit.
- ❖ Expect an assessment on the book the first or second week of school.

Assignment 2: Student Choice Novel and Complete Plot Curve/Diagram

- ❖ Choose ONE book from the attached Reading List. Many can be obtained for free from the Overdrive app.
- ❖ Read the book in its entirety.
- ❖ Complete the attached Plot Curve/Diagram and Literary Trait/Term Chart for the novel.
 - If you are not sure what a literary term means, look it up.
- ❖ This assignment is also due on the first full day back at school.
- ❖ Be prepared for a writing assignment about your book when we return to school, which will indicate whether you read it or not.
- ❖ Work received after the first full day of school will receive 50% credit.

MLA Heading:

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Directions: Please answer each question in complete, well-written sentences. This assignment is to be hand-written; however, please feel free to attach paper if needed. At the end of each answer, the page number where the information was found must be stated as well.

1. When Eddie wakes up in heaven, why does he, an 85-year-old man, run around with his arms out like an airplane?

2. Who is Eddie's first person and how is this person significant?

3. When Eddie asks the Blue Man "How long have I been dead?" and the Blue Man responds "A minute. An hour. A thousand years" what does he mean?

4. Why is Eddie upset about the location of heaven?

5. According to the Blue Man, what is the purpose of heaven?

6. How did the Blue Man become blue?

7. Why is Ruby Pier the Blue Man's heaven?

8. How are Eddie's and the Blue Man's stories intertwined?

9. What is the lesson Eddie learned from the Blue Man?

10. What does Eddie ask before the Blue Man leaves?

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Pages 51-96, Second Person, Second Lesson

1. Provide two pieces of evidence proving Eddie and his brother Joe have a lot of respect for their mother?

2. What is the difference in Eddie's body between when he woke up in the first heaven and the second?

3. Who is the 2nd person, and where is heaven for this person?

4. Why might Eddie have NOT kept in touch with the men of his unit (provide at least two reasons)?

5. What were the conditions of the men's prison? Provide at least three specific examples.

6. How is juggling significant in this portion of the novel?

7. Explain the situation that caused Eddie to get shot?

8. Who shot Eddie? What was his reasoning? How does Eddie react to this news?

9. How did the Captain die? How is this significant to Eddie?

10. What is the second lesson Eddie learned? Why does the Captain ask Eddie for forgiveness?

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

The Third Person, The Third Lesson, pg 97-144

1. Where is Eddie's third heaven? Who is his third person?

2. Provide at least two examples to explain how Eddie's body has changed?

3. Who is in the diner that is significant to Eddie? What is Eddie's reaction to seeing this person?

4. What **two** "damages" did Eddie's father inflict upon him?

5. What happens the evening of Eddie's thirty-third birthday? How?

6. Why did Eddie's father save Mickey? What had Mickey done for him?

7. How did Eddie's father die? Explain how Ruby knows about Eddie's father.

8. Why does Ruby's heaven include the diner? What type of people are there?

9. Explain the meaning of "Holding anger is a poison. It eats you from inside. We think that hating is a weapon that attacks the person who harmed us. But hatred is a curved blade. And the harm we do, we do to ourselves."

10. What lesson does Ruby teach Eddie? How does it apply to Eddie's life?

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Pg 143-178, The Fourth Person, the Fourth Lesson

1. How is Eddie physically different now than at the beginning of the book (provide at least two examples)?

2. Who is Eddie's fourth person, and where are the fourth heavens?

3. What is Marguerite unable to do? What other option were they considering?

4. Describe Eddie and Marguerite's wedding using at least three examples?

5. Why did Marguerite choose these places for her place in heaven?

6. Where was Marguerite headed on Eddie's thirty-ninth birthday? Why? What happens to her?

7. What affect did the accident have on Eddie and Marguerite's relationship? What did it "cost" them?

8. What happens to Marguerite as she is making dinner? What is the diagnosis?

9. What lesson does Eddie learn from Marguerite?

10. What does Eddie ask Marguerite to change? Why?

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Pg 179-196, The Fifth Person and The Fifth Lesson

1. What are Eddie's physical changes at this point in the novel (state at least two)?

2. Who is Eddie's fifth person, and where is her heaven?

3. What does Tala accuse Eddie of doing?

4. What does Eddie ask of Tala?

5. How does Tala's appearance change? How does Eddie change her appearance?

6. Why does Tala claim Eddie was where he was supposed to be?

7. What lesson does Tala teach Eddie?

8. What is the significance of the hands Eddie felt before he died? Whose were they really?

9. How is Nicky, who lost his key, significant to Ruby Pier?

-
-
10. Explain the meaning of “...each affects the other and the other affects the next, and the world is full of stories, but the stories are all one.”

Book List for Assignment #2

The English department recommends that students take notes/annotate as they read, either directly in the book, using sticky notes, or on a separate sheet of paper. It is the parent’s responsibility to help their child research the books and choose one that is appropriate for their child in both content and level of difficulty. There is a wide variety of levels below to accommodate all readers. More information on these books can be found at amazon.com or commonsensemedia.org. In all cases students must read the unabridged versions of these books. Many of the books below can be accessed for free through the Overdrive app.






Choose 1 book from this list for Assignment 2

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson
Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie
A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
East of Eden by John Steinbeck
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khalid Hosseini
A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis
The Joyluck Club by Amy Tan
Dune by Frank Herbert
Evil under the Sun by Agatha Christie
The Alchemist by Paul Coelho
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
QB 1 by Mike Lupica
The Big Field by Mike Lupica
Aurora Rising by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff
The Grace Year by Kim Liggett
The Bone Houses by Emily Lloyd-Jones
Killing November by Adriana Mather
Crown of Coral and Pearl by Mara Rutherford
The Perfect Blindside by Leslea Wahl
Rightfully Ours by Carolyn Astfalk

A Single Bead by Stephanie Engelman

7 Riddles to Nowhere by A.J. Cattapan

Assignment #2: This page will assist you in completing the Plot Curve/Diagram for your book of choice:

Term:	Definition:	Visual Reminder:
Theme	Central ideas in the novel; the author's meaning for the story	
Exposition	The beginning of the story, including the characters and setting.	
Conflict	The problem that makes the story interesting	
Rising Action	The events that build suspense and increase interest in a story	
Climax	The point of greatest suspense and intensity; usually near the end of the story	
Falling Action	The events that wrap up the story	
Resolution	How the story ends and the problem is solved	

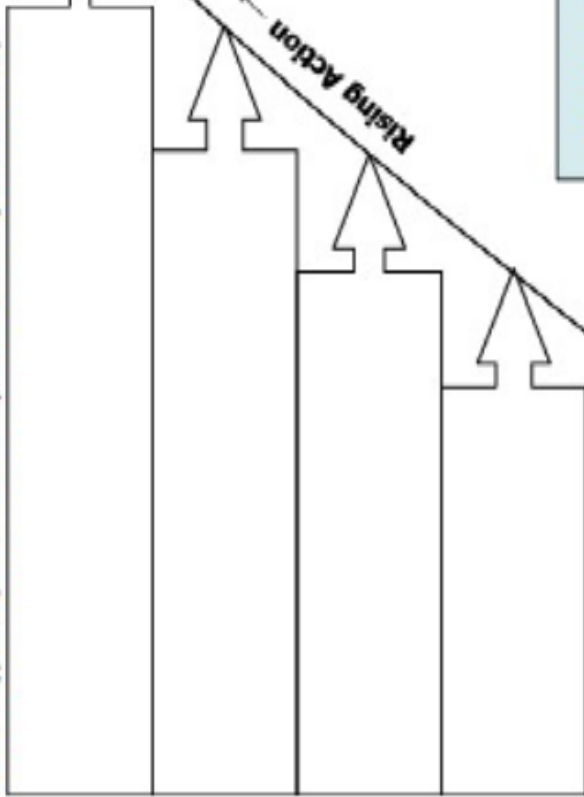
Plot Curve

Novel: _____
Author: _____

Climax: The turning point in the story – the point of greatest conflict and intensity

Rising Action:

What events, problems, and conflicts build suspense or increase complications in the story?



Climax →

Falling Action:

What events help wrap up the story?

Falling Action →

Resolution:

How does the story end? How is the conflict resolved?

Protagonist vs. Antagonist

(Character who has conflict with the main character) _____ vs. _____

Conflict

Exposition:

Setting:

Situation:

Characters:

Theme: The central ideas through the novel; the author's reason for writing or the meaning of the story

