Weaver Academy 2009 Summer Reading Choices for Honors English 9

Choose One (Assignment Page follows Choices for Honors English 9)

Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury

It is the twenty-fourth century, and the general population has become consumed by media and censorship. Individuality and intellectualism are outlawed. Television has replaced the common perception of family. Books are considered evil because they make people question and think. People have no reminders of history or appreciation of the past, only the present through controlled television viewings. Protagonist Guy Mongag questions his environment and ponders a world in which people think for themselves.

Flowers for Algernon, Daniel Keyes

Charlie Gordon, a thirty-two-year-old with an IQ of 68, has become the subject of an experimental surgical procedure which would more than triple his IQ. The book traces his rise and fall from genius, as well as his alienation as an individual at odds with society who struggles to maintain meaningful relationships.

Life of Pi, Yann Martel

Pi Patel, is a young man on the cusp of adulthood when fate steps in and hastens his lessons in maturity. En route with his family from their home in India to Canada, their cargo ship sinks, and Pi finds himself adrift in a lifeboat -- alone, save for a few surviving animals, some of the very same animals Pi's zookeeper father warned him would tear him to pieces if they got a chance. But Pi's seafaring journey is about much more than a struggle for survival. It becomes a test of everything he's learned -- about both man and beast, their creator, and the nature of truth itself.

Lost Horizon, James Hilton

Wars do strange things to those who fight them. The trenches of the First World War have left Conway, James Hilton's most memorable hero, feeling himself old long before his time. When he and three others being evacuated from the British consulate at Baskul find themselves kidnapped - flown to a Tibetan monastery, instead of to safety as they expected - he accepts the situation with an ease that infuriates his hero-worshipping young colleague, Mallinson. Conway takes easily to Shangri-La's life of isolated serenity. When he learns why he and his companions were brought to that remote and secret valley, he's not angry. Instead, he feels so oddly at home that only for love's sake will he leave.

The Bean Trees, Barbara Kingsolver

Marietta is determined to avoid becoming a pregnant teen. Except for her supportive mother, she feels contempt for her regressive hometown in Eastern Kentucky. After saving enough money to buy a '55 Volkswagen bug, she drives away to live an exotic new life in Arizona. The novel focuses on her search for identity and the lessons she learns along the way.

Accompanying Assignments for Honors English 9

For the one book you have chosen to read from your summer reading list complete a Dialectical Journal, also known as text connections (see below), and in addition, complete a creative project. This could very easily pertain to your area of concentration or a special talent you have. Examples of this could be a sculpture or painting which reflects what the work meant to you; an original piece of music or song which you would play or perform capturing the mood of the piece; an original dance to music which portrays the theme of the work or one character from the work, an oral interpretive reading of a selection from the work, artistically design a set if the work were going to be adapted as a play or a large movie poster if it were adapted to a screenplay; a CD which records music which takes the listener through the book. For you creative writers, you could write a collection of poems relating to the work or excerpts of a character's journal. These are just some ideas you can use as a springboard; be sure you are prepared to explain your project.

Dialectical Journaling (Text Connections)

A dialectical journal is a double entry reading journal. It requires at least one text, a sheet of lined notebook paper, and a writing implement.

On the left side of the lined page, write down a meaningful word, phrase, or a line or two from the text you are reading. Document the page where the quote is located within the text.

On the right hand side of the page, reflect, react, or respond to the words, phrases, or lines you've taken from the text. You may also write questions for yourself about the text or hypothetically pose questions to the author, speaker, or narrator of the text.

The purposes of the dialectical journal are for you to make personal connections to the text, practice deeper critical thinking skills, reflect on the relevance of the text, and learn how to craft good, open-ended, probing questions.

EXAMPLE:

A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift, from 40 Model Essays

Dialectical Journal

Page	**Quotation**	**Reader Reaction**
Page 362	"I have no children by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine, and my wife past childbearing."	No wonder Swift proposes his outrageous solution to the social problem of poverty and hunger. He has nothing to lose. I wonder how I would react if I were a parent reading this!