

10th Grade English Summer Reading Choices Include...

10th Grade Reading Choices – read one of the following and complete a MWDS and one creative project based on the novel.

***Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher**

Crutcher's (Running Loose; Ironman) gripping tale of small-town prejudice delivers a frank, powerful message about social issues and ills. Representing one-third of his community's minority population ("I'm black. And Japanese. And white"), narrator T.J. Jones voices a darkly ironic appraisal of the high school sports arena. Despite his natural athletic ability (at 13, he qualified for the Junior Olympics in two swimming events), T.J. has steered away from organized sports until his senior year, when Mr. Simet, a favorite English teacher, implores him to help form a swim team for the school (and thereby help the teacher save his job). T.J. sees an opportunity to get revenge on the establishment and invites outcasts to participate on the team; he ends up with "a representative from each extreme of the educational spectrum, a muscle man, a giant, a chameleon, and a psychopath." As might be expected, he accomplishes his mission: his motley crew of swimmers is despised by more conventional athletes (and coaches). The swimmers face many obstacles, but their dedication to their sport and each other grows stronger with every meet. The gradual unfolding of characters' personal conflicts proves to be as gripping as the evolution of the team's efforts. Through T.J.'s narration, Crutcher offers an unusual yet resonant mixture of black comedy and tragedy that lays bare the superficiality of the high school scene. The book's shocking climax will force readers to re-examine their own values and may cause them to alter their perception of individuals pegged as "losers." 1000L

***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**

Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon can scarcely believe what has happened to him. Somehow he has ended up incarcerated in the Manhattan Juvenile Detention Center for his alleged role in the robbery of a neighborhood drugstore in which the owner of the store was killed. Now he's been charged with felony murder! As the trial begins, Steve feels that this can't possibly be his real life. Everything is suddenly out of control. To him, it seems as if he has "walked into the middle of a movie." Since he is a film student, he decides to tell his story in the form of a screenplay. Steve calls his film *Monster* because that's how the prosecutor refers to him in court. But is he really a monster? And will we ever really know the truth? 670L

***Pirates!* By Celia Rees**

This swashbuckling adventure features all of the elements of a grand pirate tale: sword fights, duels, charming rogues, true love, murder, and the odd severed head. Narrator Nancy Kington joins a pirate crew to escape an arranged marriage to a deliciously evil Brazilian, a former pirate himself. She takes along Minerva, a slave who not too surprisingly turns out to be her half sister. The pirates, in one of many happy coincidences, are captained by Mr. Broom, who had already befriended Nancy on an earlier voyage. Quickly adapting to the life, the two young women survive storms, capture, mutiny, and more. This crew manages to steal with little or no bloodshed, except when the victims are clearly villainous themselves. Nancy comes to relish the excitement of sea life, but still hopes to reunite with the young man she loves, who serves with the British Navy. The narration is well paced and engrossing, giving readers a strong feel for the times without bogging down in details. Nancy describes the practice of slavery and the rights of women perceptively, but fairly convincingly for a 1725 character of her background and experience. The first 100 pages are less exciting than the rest of the book, but they set the stage nicely for the involving exploits that follow. The inevitable showdown with the Brazilian provides a satisfying page-turner of a climax. While a few of the supporting characters seem a bit wooden, and some plot twists stretch credulity, this is a rip-roaring adventure with an engaging female heroine. 800L

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING 6 CREATIVE PROJECTS TO COMPLETE

1. Create a comic book relating to a chapter from the 2nd half of the book.
2. Make three (full 22" X 28" poster board) posters about the book using two or more of the following media: paint, crayons, chalk, paper, ink, real materials.
3. Rewrite the story for younger children in picture book form.
4. Make a scrapbook about the novel using information from the book, or choose one character and create that character's scrapbook of the events in the book.
5. Create a board game based on events and characters in the book you read. By playing your game, members of the class should learn what happened in the book. Your game must include the following: a game board, a rule sheet and clear directions, events and characters from the story with images.
6. Complete a series of five drawings that show five of the major events in the plot of the book you read. Write captions for each drawing so that the illustrations can be understood by someone who did not read the book. Drawings must be a minimum of 8.5" X 11" and must include color.

* If you want to do something different from the above choices you **MUST** receive **PRIOR** approval from the English teacher you will have in the fall.

At the start of school, you will present your project to the class, below is the grading rubric for this presentation of your creative project.

Name:				
Type of Project:				
	Less Points	Full Points	Points	
Length of Presentation	Less than 1.5 minutes or more than 4 minutes.	1.5 to 4 minutes	10	
Creative Artifact & Overall Presentation	Displayed ineffectively	Displayed effectively	10	
	Presented ineffectively	Presented effectively	10	
	Shows low quality and low quantity effort	Shows high quality and high quantity effort	10	
	Unclear connection between artifact and text.	Clear connection between artifact and text.	10	
		Total Points:	50 points	

Major Works Data Sheet

Title: _____ Author: _____	Point of View (POV) - What is the POV from which the story is told? How does the POV affect the reading?	Setting Information – Consider both time and place:
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Conflict/Resolution – Describe some of the major conflicts and how they were resolved:

MEMORABLE QUOTES

** Include at least ten (10) memorable quotes which are significant in relation to the themes of the work or to the author's style and/or character development.

Quotation	Significance/Personal Reaction

CHARACTERS

**In discussing characters, identify *each major and minor character*. Discuss how the author develops each character.
Does the character change (dynamic) or stay the same (static) throughout the story?

Name	Role in Story	Significant acts/actions?	Character's perception of himself/herself?	How do you perceive the character?	Changes in character (external & internal)?

Themes – A theme is an idea the writer wishes to convey about the subject—the writer's view of the world or a revelation about human nature: ** List all major themes developed in the novel.

Vocabulary: **List and define 20 new words you encounter while reading the novel.

*** Use each of the 20 words in an original sentence.