

# Summer Reading for 9<sup>th</sup> grade English

## **Mr. Jones and Mr. McGarty**

Welcome to summer! Of course summer isn't really summer without summer reading, and luckily for you, we've lined up some sweet texts to help you pass the time.

For both honors and college prep classes, please read **one** of the following texts although you're welcome to read more than one, but only keep a journal on **one** of them.

*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok

*The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver

*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* by Caroline Alexander

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Susan Monk Kidd

Maintain a reading journal as you read. For each chapter, write a thoughtful, reflective, **one to two paragraph** entry that displays your **insights** into the novel. Develop responses based on or inspired by the text; reflect upon themes, characters, setting, et cetera. Refer to specific passages and cite particulars to support your thinking. Some ideas for reactions are listed on the back of this page.

\*Please note: For the book, *Speak*, you can write entries based on every 20 pages rather than every chapter.

Enjoy your reading and read a lot! Have a tremendous summer!

### Summer Reading Journal

Your assignment is to keep a journal while reading the book you choose from the list. Upon your return to school, the journal will be collected and randomly chosen entries will be graded. The journal will be the equivalent of a test grade. The purpose of the journal is not to retell the plot but to offer your thoughts. Journal entries are quite open-ended and may focus on any aspect of the text. The idea is to capture your **insights** about the story and record your thoughtful responses to the text. Refer to specific passages and cite particular details to support your response. The following questions may help guide your thinking as you respond.

#### **Opinions/Reactions:**

- What emotions or thoughts did you have while reading the story? Describe and explain them.
- What did you particularly like and dislike about the chapter?
- In what way(s) does this chapter reflect real life, and in what ways does it not?

**Themes/Connections:**

- What truth or idea or lesson do you think the author was trying to get across in this chapter? Do you agree with it? Does it ring true with life as you know it? Explain
- Does this chapter seem to have the same thematic idea or truth in it as any other book or story you have read previously? Or the same idea or truth as a movie or T.V. show you've seen?
- Does it reflect a particular historical or cultural trend?

**Setting:**

- How is the setting important to the chapter/story?
- What kind of language does the author use to describe the settings? Mention some words or phrases.
- What places have you been to that the setting reminds you of? Why?
- How does the setting affect the characters? The events?

**Characters:**

- Which character is the most like you and why?
- What are the relationships between the characters? Do the characters (or their relationships) change in this chapter?
- Does the author do a good job describing the characters? Choose a particularly effective (or ineffective) descriptive passage.
- What are the character's motivations? Do they seem realistic?
- Pick a character you especially like or hate and explain why.

**Problem/Conflict/Challenge:**

- Does the chapter contain a problem/conflict/challenge that is particularly interesting? What is it?
- Have you or anyone you know had a similar problem? Explain.
- Did you like the way the problem/conflict/challenge was resolved? Why or why not? How would you change the ending?

**Events:**

- Did the chapter have enough happenings? Enough build-up? Explain.
- Did it contain a turning point? How effective was this turning point?
- Was the action detailed and well-described? Choose some well-written sentences and explain why you thought they were effective.
- Did any of the events remind you of an event in your own life? Explain.