

Complete List of Books Sorted by Title

1984 by George Orwell - *Mr. M Terrazas*, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: Synopsis copied from www.half.com

George Orwell's celebrated and always timely 1948 vision of a world subsumed in tyranny and war describes the process of events by which Winston Smith, a London clerk at the Ministry of Truth, comes to understand the true nature and aims of the government he works for, and portrays his doomed attempt to create a private life for himself and his lover, Julia. One of the bleakest political novels ever written, 1984 illustrates Orwell's despair that democracy could ever summon the strength to overcome totalitarianism in his lifetime.

Assignment: Choose an incident from your own life, then compare and contrast it to the themes Orwell explores throughout his book.

1st to Die by James Patterson - *Ms. R Crocket*, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: Four women -- four friends -- share a determination to stop a killer who has been stalking newlyweds in San Francisco. Each one holds a piece of the puzzle: Lindsay Boxer is a homicide inspector in the San Francisco Police Department, Claire Washburn is a medical examiner, Jill Bernhardt is an assistant DA, and Cindy Thomas just started working the crime desk of the San Francisco Chronicle.

But the usual procedures aren't bringing them any closer to stopping the killings. So these women form a Women's Murder Club to collaborate outside the box and pursue the case by sidestepping their bosses and giving one another a hand.

The four women develop intense bonds as they pursue a murderer whose crimes have stunned an entire city. Working together, they track down the most terrifying and unexpected killer they have ever encountered -- before a shocking conclusion in which everything they know turns out to be devastatingly wrong.

--Synopsis taken from the cover of the 1st to Die novel.

Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, The by Sean Covey - *Ms. L Gilbert*, Business/Comp Sci/Tech

Info: If you choose this book, you will be one up on the Hospitality Management Interns. Learn how to be more successful in a positive way.

Assignment: The Great Discovery Activity:

9th....., The by James Patterson - *Ms. A Motyka*, MATH,

Info: I love James Patterson and it is his newest book. Most are intriguing, and you never know "Who done it" until the very end.

Assignment: Write an account of what you would have done differently had you been one of the characters. Explain how your decision would have changed the outcome of the book, and whether or not your decision would have made the book better.

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian. , The by Sherman Alexie - *Ms. A Starr*, ENGLISH,

Info: "Talented Arnold Spirit leaves the reservation school to go to an academically superior one located many miles away. How he copes with this change, both at school and on the reservation, is realistic, thought provoking, and laugh-out-loud funny."

Assignment: Respond to the following questions with a well-developed paragraph. You should three well developed paragraphs, one per question.

1. Explain how Arnold Spirit, our main character, is different from the other children at his new school.
2. Explain how Arnold copes with his new environment.
3. Explain how the book relates to your own experiences or the experiences of someone you know.

After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson - *Ms. B Wilks*, ADMINISTRATION

Info: "The summer before D Foster's real mama came and took her away, Tupac wasn't dead yet." From this first line in her quiet, powerful novel, Woodson cycles backward through the events that lead to dual tragedies: a friend's departure and a hero's death. In a close-knit African American neighborhood in Queens, New York, the unnamed narrator lives across from her best friend, Neeka. Then D Foster wanders onto the block, and the three 11-year-old girls quickly become inseparable. Because readers know from the start where the plot is headed, the characters and the community form the focus here. A subplot about Neeka's older brother, a gay man serving prison time after being framed for a hate crime, sometimes threatens to overwhelm the girls' story. But Woodson balances the plotlines with subtle details, authentic language, and rich development. Beautifully capturing the girls' passage from childhood to adolescence, this is a memorable, affecting novel about the sustaining power of love and friendship and each girl's developing faith in her own "Big Purpose." Grades 6-9. --Gillian Engberg

Assignment: Choose one:

- I. You are a prosecuting or defense attorney putting one of the characters from the book you read on trial for a crime. Write a closing argument for your case using facts from the book to support your argument.
- II. Write an account of what you would have done differently had you been one of the characters. Explain how your decision would have changed the outcome of the book, and whether or not your decision would have made the book better.

All Aunt Hagar's Children by Edward P. Jones - *Ms. L Leecost*, SCIENCE

Info: Edward P. Jones, a prodigy of the short story, returns to the form that first won him praise in this new collection of stories, All Aunt Hagar's Children. Here he turns an unflinching eye to the men, women, and children caught between the old ways of the South and the temptations that await them in the city, people who in Jones's masterful hands emerge as fully human and morally complex. With the legacy of slavery just a stone's throw behind them and the future uncertain, Jones's cornucopia of characters will haunt readers for years to come.

Assignment: Choose one:

1. Write a book review as it would be done in a newspaper.
2. Write a feature article (with a headline) that tells the story of the book as it might be found on the front page of a newspaper in the town where the story takes place.
3. Interview a character from your book. Write at least 10 questions that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his or her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story. Then, answer the questions from the character's point of view.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie - *Mrs. F Thomas*, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: This is a murder mystery novel that will keep you in suspense. Try to figure out who the killer is.

An easy book to read. Have fun!

Assignment: Compare and contrast two characters in the story.

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt - *Mrs. Djina Satara-Petrovic*, ESOL,

Info: Angela's Ashes is a wonderful memoir written from a perspective of a young boy. Frank describes his childhood as a time of great poverty, but at the same time as a time of good humor and adventure. This wonderful narrative will take you through Frank's early childhood in Brooklyn, New York, where his parents met and got married , through his adolescent years in Ireland , back to New York, where he pursues teaching, and where he will eventually write and publish Angela's Ashes, which won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Bok Critics' Circle Award.

Assignment: Write a description of the main character, Frank, (both physical and emotional) and give details about how he matures from a young boy to a responsible adult. Also, describe the symbolism of "ashes". What do "ashes" represent, in your opinion?

Angels & Demons by Dan Brown - *Mrs. M Bromell*, SCIENCE,

Info: World-renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned to a Swiss research facility to analyze a cryptic symbol seared into the chest of a murdered physicist. What he discovers is unimaginable: a deadly vendetta against the Catholic Church by a centuries old organization - The Illuminati. Desperate to save the Vatican from a powerful time bomb, Langdon joins forces in Rome with the beautiful and mysterious scientist Vittoria Vetra. Together, they embark on a frantic hunt through sealed crypts, dangerous catacombs, deserted cathedrals, and the most secretive vault on Earth... the long-forgotten Illuminati lair.

Assignment: Scheduled online book discussions. Please send me an email at marian_bromell@mcpmsd.org so that you can be invited to the online discussion room.

Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living, The by Dalai Lama XIV, Dalai Lama, Howard C. Cutler in Books - *Mr. A Saltzman*, COUNSELING

Info: Nearly every time you see him, he's laughing, or at least smiling. And he makes everyone else around him feel like smiling. He's the Dalai Lama, the spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet, a Nobel Prize winner, and a hugely sought-after speaker and statesman. Why is he so popular? If you ask him if he's happy, even though he's suffered the loss of his country, the Dalai Lama will give you an unconditional yes. What's more, he'll tell you that happiness is the purpose of life, and that "the very motion of our life is toward happiness." Through conversations, stories, and meditations, the Dalai Lama shows us how to defeat day-to-day anxiety, insecurity, anger, and discouragement. Together with Dr. Howard Cutler, he explores many facets of everyday life, including relationships, loss, and the pursuit of wealth, to illustrate how to ride through life's obstacles on a deep and abiding source of inner peace.

Assignment: Write a letter to me about 5 things you learned by reading this book and what you (or I) could do to make positive changes in your (or my) life.

Art of War, The by Sun Tzu - *Ms. Rajeev*, ENGLISH

Info:

Assignment:

Art of War, The by Sun Tzu - *Ms. L Salatto*, ENGLISH,

Info: A text written in the 6th century BC offers a practical guide for generals on how to conduct warfare, but the text has survived and is used more often now by corporate leaders, coaches, etc. as an example of how to be successful in any undertaking that requires leadership, preparation, and discipline. This text can be read on-line, as per your summer reading direction sheet.

Assignment: Write down any 10 quotations that you think are most applicable to life OUTSIDE of the realm of warfare. Which quotations could apply to simply being successful in life?

Complete List of Books Sorted by Title

Beyond Basketball by Mike Krzyzewski and Jamie Spatola - *Mr. K Heckert*, SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: The Duke University men's basketball team has served as the gold standard in college athletics for well over two decades - and that's all because of the extraordinary impact of Mike Krzyzewski, the highly-respected coach of the Duke squad.

Coach K's reputation as a teacher of young men has transcended his extraordinary success as a coach. The Duke team is always ranked at the top of the college game, year in and year out, but what's truly remarkable about Coach K are his players and the legacy they leave behind: Grant Hill, Shane Battier, Elton Brand, Bobby Hurley, and on and on -- these are not just great basketball players, but individuals who have become true leaders in American society, all thanks in large part to Coach K's leadership.

So how does Coach K do it? In this new book, he reveals his tips, advice, and time-tested guidance on how he coaches and educates his players about life beyond the basketball court.

Assignment: #11. Tell 5 things you learned by reading the book

Bite Me by Christopher Moore - *Ms. K Kraus*, SCIENCE,

Info: A sequel to "Bloodsucking Fiends," and "You Suck" this continues the story of Abby Normal, human minion to Jody and Tommy, and the freakishly large vampire cat, Chet.

"Whoa. And this is a love story? Yup. 'Cept there's no whining. See, while some lovers were born to run, Jody and Tommy were born to bite. Well, reborn, that is, now that they're vampires. Good thing theirs is an undying love, since their Goth Girl Friday, Abby Normal, imprisoned them in a bronze statue.

Abby wants to be a bloodsucking fiend, too, but right now she's really busy with other stuff, like breaking in a pair of red vinyl thigh-high Skankenstein® platform boots and wrangling her Ph.D.-candidate boyfriend, Steve (the love monkey). And then there's that vampire cat Chet, who's getting bigger and smarter—and thierstier—by the minute. Abby thought she and Steve could handle the kitty cat on their own, mais non . . .

Before you can say "OMG! WTF?" Tommy and Jody are sprung from captivity, and join forces with Abby, Steve, the frozen-turkey-bowling Safeway crew, the Emperor of San Francisco and his trusty dogs Lazarus and Bummer, Abby's gay Goth friend Jared, and SF's finest Cavuto and Rivera to hunt big cat and save the city. And that's when the fun really begins."

Assignment: Create a pretend online profile (much like a Facebook or Myspace profile) for one of your characters. Be sure to include typical profile information (location, birthday, relationship status, likes and dislikes, etc) as well as an "about me" section). Please make sure you PRINT OUT the profile to turn in, as computers may not be available to "show" your assignment.

Blindside, The by Michael Lewis - *Mr. E Graf*, MATH

Info: From Publishers Weekly

As he did so memorably for baseball in Moneyball, Lewis takes a statistical X-ray of the hidden substructure of football, outlining the invisible doings of unsung players that determine the outcome more than the showy exploits of point scorers. In his sketch of the gridiron arms race, first came the modern, meticulously choreographed passing offense, then the ferocious defensive pass rusher whose bone-crunching quarterback sacks demolished the best-laid passing game, and finally the rise of the left tackle—the offensive lineman tasked with protecting the quarterback from the pass rusher—whose presence is felt only through the game-deciding absence of said sacks. A rare creature combining 300 pounds of bulk with "the body control of a ballerina," the anonymous left tackle, Lewis notes, is now often a team's highest-paid player. Lewis fleshes this out with the colorful saga of left tackle prodigy Michael Oher. An intermittently homeless Memphis ghetto kid taken in by a rich white family and a Christian high school, Oher's preternatural size and agility soon has every college coach in the country courting him obsequiously. Combining a tour de force of sports analysis with a piquant ethnography of the South's pigskin mania, Lewis probes the fascinating question of whether football is a matter of brute force or subtle intellect.

Assignment: Follow and respond to me on twitter. I'm new to twitter but I'll figure it out. Follow BlindSideReader. I'll start reading the book in August and tweet periodically for each chapter through August. You will have to respond to the tweets as you finish each chapter.

Body of Christopher Creed, The by Carol Plum-Ucci - *W Carr*, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: "The Body of Christopher Reed" is about the 'school class freak' whose disappearance rocks the town of Steepleton, baffles the school, and becomes a turning-point in Torey Adams sheltered life. This mystery-thriller of compassion, cruelty, loyalty, also causes enduring pain and terror upon Torey who leads the path to solve the mystery. Torey struggles with the dilemma of: "Can this mystery be solved" or " must he learn to overcome the loss."

Assignment: If you were Torey, how would you attempt to solve this mystery?

Bond, The by Sampson Davis - *Mr. C Feamster*, ADMINISTRATION

Info: This is book that tells of the story of three young men who made a pact to be successful but tell of their stories of forgiving their fathers.

Assignment: Write a sales proposal, pretending the students in the class are clerks in a bookstore and you want them to push sales for this book.

Boy Who Harnessed The Wind, The by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer - *D Espinoza*, MATH

Info: Young teen William, taught himself enough physics and engineering to build a windmill and bring electricity to his drought stricken village, discovered the magic of his Malawi homeland in the miracles of science.

Assignment: 1-2 page writing assignment. Bring your assignment to the book discussion in September. If typed, use a clear, 12-14 point font. No spacing larger than 2.0. If written, the front and back of one sheet of lined notebook paper, double spaced.

Brief Wondrous Life Of Oscar Wao , The by Junot Diaz - *Mr. T Lowe*, PE / Health / Music

Info: The titular Oscar is a 300-pound-plus "lovesick ghetto nerd" with zero game (except for Dungeons & Dragons) who cranks out pages of fantasy fiction with the hopes of becoming a Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is also the story of a multi-generational family curse that courses through the book, leaving troubles and tragedy in its wake.

Assignment: Find the top 10 web sites a character in your book would most frequently visit. Include an explanation for each on why your character likes each of the sites.

Browning and Donne: poems that irritate or challenge? by Robert Browning; John Donne - *Mr. D Sampselle*, ENGLISH

Info: Upcoming IB-11 students are reading a ton of poetry this summer, with accompanying analyses. But for two poems--Browning's 'My Last Duchess' and Donne's 'Elegy 19'--no analysis is given. Students should read and re-read these two poems multiple times, employing the strategies and literary arsenal in the analyses they had to read.

Assignment: Come to the session ready to share your insights about one of these poems [depending what session you are in]. Bring your annotated copy of the poems, along with questions, enthusiasm, and boundless inquisitiveness.

Catch 22 by Joseph Heller - *Mr. H Moore*, MATH

Info: Catch-22 is a satirical, historical novel by the American author Joseph Heller, first published in 1961. The novel, set during the later stages of World War II from 1943 onwards, is frequently cited as one of the great literary works of the twentieth century. It has a distinctive non-chronological style where events are described from different characters' points of view and out of sequence so that the time line develops along with the plot.

Assignment: Choose an event or episode in your own experience and compare it to some event in the book.

Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger - *Ms. L Freeman*, ENGLISH

Info: This is required reading for all Pre-IB 10 students.

Assignment: Students will be creating a dialectical journal and annotating their books.

ALL STUDENTS MUST GET THEIR SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT SHEET FROM MS.FREEMAN BEFORE JUNE 8.

Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger - *Ms. W Farmer*, ENGLISH

Info: Novel by J.D. Salinger, published in 1951. The influential and widely acclaimed story details the two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world. He ends up exhausted and emotionally ill, in a psychiatrist's office. After he recovers from his breakdown, Holden relates his experiences to the reader.

Assignment: Write a letter from Holden in the story to either his little sister or his parents, explaining why he's so angry about his life.

Change of Heart by Jodi Piccoul - *Mrs. L Ingram*, MAIN OFFICE

Info: The acclaimed #1 New York Times bestselling author presents a spellbinding tale of a mother's tragic loss and one man's last chance at gaining salvation. Would you give up your vengeance against someone you hate if it meant saving someone you love? Would you want your dreams to come true if it meant granting your enemy's dying wish?

Once again, Jodi Piccoul mesmerizes and enralls readers with this story of redemption, justice, and love. Change of Heart looks at the nature of organized religion and belief, and takes the reader behind the closely drawn curtains of America's death penalty. It also asks whether religion and politics are truly separate in this country, or inextricably tangled. Does religion make us more tolerant, or less?

Assignment: Discuss your personal beliefs as to the validity of the death penalty in our legal system. Do you support or reject it's use? What beliefs and experiences help to shape your beliefs regarding the use of the death penalty in this country? Finally, explain what you would have decided had you been in June's position and tell why.

Chariots of the Gods by Erich von Daniken - *Mr. T Sneddon*, SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: Alternative History
Theories on Ancient Civilizations (and possible connections to Alien contact.)

Assignment: Write a one page response explaining why you do, or do not support the theories presented by the author.

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Updated : 8/27/2010

Copper Sun by Sharon Draper - *Ms. L Wilkinson*,
SCIENCE

Info: Stolen from her village, sold to the highest bidder, fifteen-year-old Amari has only one thing left of her own -- hope.

Amari's life was once perfect. Engaged to the handsomest man in her tribe, adored by her family, and living in a beautiful village, she could not have imagined everything could be taken away from her in an instant. But when slave traders invade her village and brutally murder her entire family, Amari finds herself dragged away to a slave ship headed to the Carolinas, where she is bought by a plantation owner and given to his son as a birthday present.

Survival seems all that Amari can hope for. But then an act of unimaginable cruelty provides her with an opportunity to escape, and with an indentured servant named Polly she flees to Fort Mose, Florida, in search of sanctuary at the Spanish colony. Can the illusive dream of freedom sustain Amari and Polly on their arduous journey, fraught with hardship and danger?

Assignment: Choose one of the following: 1) Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the characters thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary. OR 2) Choose 5 "artifacts" from the book that best illustrate the events and meanings of the story. Tell why you chose each artifact and why it is important to the story.

CURRENT HEALTH- VOLUME 32 Pollination Information by Erin R King - *Mrs. L Neubeiser*, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: 1) Assigned article: Pg 22-25
2) Complete written assignment listed below
3) Read the entire article over the summer

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL PARTS/SECTIONS FOR FULL CREDIT!

Assignment: 1) Write a five sentence paragraph about "Pollination Information" 2) Complete the "Pollination Information" graphic organizer 3) Complete the summary worksheet attached to the article

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL PARTS/SECTIONS FOR FULL CREDIT!

Current Health-Volume 32 Pollination Information by Erin R. King - *Ms. G Kuhn*, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: 1. Assigned Article: Pollination Information Pp. 22-25
2. Complete written assignment listed below.
3. Read the entire article.

Please complete all parts/sections for full credit.

Assignment: 1. Write a 5-sentence paragraph about pollination.
2. Complete: "Pollination Information" Graphic Organizer
3. Complete the "Summary Worksheet "

Current Health-Volume 32 Pollination Information by Erin R King - *Ms. M Gorie*, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: 1. Assigned Article: pollination Information pp.22-25
2. Complete written assignments listed below.
3. Read the entire article.

Please complete all parts/sections for full credit !

Assignment: 1. Write a five sentence paragraph about pollination.
2. Complete the "Pollination Information" graphic organizer.
3. Complete the summary worksheet.

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende - *Ms. E Dolan*,
For. Language / Art

Info:

Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Deception Point by Dan Brown - *Mr. P Ford*, SCIENCE

Info: This is modern science fiction mystery that'll leave you with an unquenchable desire to see the next page after page. You won't be disappointed by the ending(I know I wasn't, holy cow!!!)...This book changed me forever. As a matter of fact, you should read this book sitting down in a lazy boy, as you're likely to fall flat on your face in total disbelief at what you're reading.

Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Devine Justice by David Baldacci - *Mr. D Stein*,
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: This is a book about intrigue, deception, loyalty, friendship, and love. Fast-paced and exciting that should hold interest if interested in a drug smuggling FBI and CIA thriller set in a small southern town in America.

Assignment: Write a 1-2 page paper that includes BOTH assignments below.

1. Write a FULL (physical, emotional, relational) description of three of the characters in the book.
2. Write about three things that you learned from the story

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules by Jeff Kinney
- *Mr. V Naylor*, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: Our main character,Greg, doesn't want anyone to know how he spent his summer. Unfortunately for him, his older brother finds his diary and secrets have a way of being found out.

Assignment: Choose one:

- Write a book about Greg's life 20 years from now. (Suggested title: "A Wimpy Kid Grows Up")
- Write a diary from someone other than the main character's point of view (not Greg's). It should have at least 5 entries that might have been written before, during or after the book's events. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules by Jeff Kinney
- *Ms. P Naylor*, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: Our main character,Greg, doesn't want anyone to know how he spent his summer. Unfortunately for him, his older brother finds his diary and secrets have a way of being found out.

Assignment: Choose one:

- Write a book about Greg's life 20 years from now. (Suggested title: "A Wimpy Kid Grows Up")
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Don't Let The Lipstick Fool You, The Making of A Champion by Lisa Leslie by Lisa Leslie - *Ms. P Morris*,
PE / Health / Music

Info: The following paragraphs were written by the publisher, Dafina, about this book:

"A three-time Olympic gold medalist, three-time MVP of the WNBA, and the first woman ever to dunk in a professional basketball game, Lisa Leslie is considered one of the greatest players in the history of women's basketball. Now in her own words, she points the spotlight onto her remarkable life off the court, where being a confident champion was not always simple.

As a child growing up in South Central Los Angeles, Lisa was timid, awkward, and over six feet tall in the sixth grade. Opponents challenged her, and she struggled to overcome self-imposed fears and limitations. But as her interest in basketball grew, she toughened both her game and her resolve. She also learned she could retain her femininity and throw a few elbows too.

Yet overcoming tremendous doubts are what paved the way to Lisa's greatest achievements--scoring 101 points in the first half of a high school basketball game; signing with Wilhelmina Models and appearing in Vogue magazine; and of course traveling the world and winning championship after championship.

Today, Lisa is a beautiful, poised, assertive, six-foot-five-inch basketball powerhouse. Her elegance and charm have made her a favorite with fans, the fashion world, and even Hollywood. With hard-won candor and self-assurance, Lisa Leslie shares her empowering story about finding grace under pressure, balancing a life of contradiction without losing yourself, and exceeding expectations--including your own--by playing like a girl."

Assignment: Write a letter to the main character of the book telling how his or her actions affected you after reading the book.

OR

Select one character from the book you read who has the qualities of a heroine or hero. List these qualities and tell why you think they are heroic.

OR

Create a blog where students have to create three – four entries relating to the reading selection.

Eclipse by Stephanie Meyer - *Ms. Tammy Mullinix*,
SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: The legions of readers who are hooked on the romantic struggles of Bella and the vampire Edward will ecstatically devour this third installment of the story begun in Twilight, but it's unlikely to win over any newcomers. Jake, the werewolf met in New Moon, pursues Bella with renewed vigilance. However, when repercussions from an episode in Twilight place Bella in the mortal danger that series fans have come to expect, Jake and Edward forge an uneasy alliance. The plot patterns have begun to show here, but Meyer's other strengths remain intact. The supernatural elements accentuate the ordinary human dramas of growing up. Jake and Edward's competition for Bella feels particularly authentic, especially in their apparent desire to best each other as much as to win Bella. Once again the author presents teenage love as an almost inhuman force: "[He] would have been my soul mate still," says Bella, "if his claim had not been overshadowed by something stronger, something so strong that it could not exist in a rational world." According to Meyer, the fourth book should tie up at least the Edward story, if not the whole shebang. Ages 12-up. (Aug.) Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information

Assignment: Write a sales proposal, pretending the students in the class are clerks in a bookstore and you want them to push sales for this book.

or

Create 3-4 entries on our Eclipse Blog.

Complete List of Books Sorted by Title

"El Alquimista" by Paulo Coelho - *Ms. Cristina Buitrago*, For. Language / Art,

Info: The book 'El Alquimista' by Paulo Coelho tells a story about a man with a universal preoccupation - what's the meaning of life?

Coelho's 'El Alquimista' has many similarities to that of Rhonda Byrne's 'The Secret' which suggests that when a human being wants something, the whole universe conspires to make it a reality.

Assignment: Write about three things that you learned from the story.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card - *Ms. B Jackson*, ENGLISH

Info: It's 2070, forty years since a devastating alien invasion was barely turned back, and the world is desperately searching for soldiers to lead them to victory when the "Buggers" come again. That's why they're drafting young children who pass a rigorous screening, and sending the best of them to the orbiting Battle School, where they are trained from childhood to be ready for war in the vertiginous reaches of space.

Into the unending pressure of military training comes six-year-old Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, who struggles to keep his humanity even as the adult teachers, rivals among his fellow students, and the strange unseen influence of the alien invaders all threaten either to destroy him or to make him into someone he can't bear to be.

His genius raises him to the top of the intensely competitive games in the Battle Room, an immense null-gravity chamber where armies of youngsters engage in mock combat. But his real struggles are off the playing field - with a dangerous older boy named Bonzo Madrid who is determined that both he and Ender cannot survive in this place: with his teacher, Mazer Rackham, who won the last war on a fluke and now is trying to prepare Ender to win the next one by skill rather than luck; and with himself, as Ender wrestles with his own demons, desperate to remain a decent human being even as he sees himself being transformed into exactly the same kind of monster as the buggers themselves.

Assignment: 1. Identify and discuss the author's development of relationship in the book a) Within Ender's family and b) with the adults with whom he interacts.
2. Write a one-paragraph essay discussing--How does Card effectively use the motif of "game" in the story? Should the word, game be used? How does the word "game" metamorphose throughout the book?

Fences by August Wilson - *Ms. J Saxon*, ENGLISH,

Info:

Assignment: Exploring August Wilson- Exploring August Wilson-

Write an obituary for one of the characters.

Why do you believe August Wilson chose to write this play at this time in his literary career?

First Family by David Baldacci - *Mrs. M Xu*, MATH,

Info: From the inside cover of the book:

It began with what seemed like an ordinary children's birthday party. Friends and family gathered to celebrate. There were balloons and cake; games and gifts.

This party, however, was far from ordinary. It was held at Camp David, the presidential retreat. And it ended with a daring kidnapping... which immediately turned into a national security nightmare.

Sean King and Michelle Maxwell were not looking to become involved. As former Secret Service agents turned private investigators, they had no reason to be. The FBI doesn't want them interfering. But years ago, Sean King saved the First Lady's husband, then a senator, from political disaster. Now Sean is the one person the First Lady trusts, and she presses Sean and Michelle into the desperate search to rescue the abducted child. With Michelle still battling her own demons and forces aligned on all sides against her and Sean, the two are pushed to the absolute limit. In the race to save an innocent victim, the line between friend and foe will become impossible to define... or defend.

Assignment: Tell 5 things you learned by reading the book.

First Part Last by Angela Johnson - *Ms. K Kreinbrook*, MEDIA CENTER,

Info: This little thing with the perfect face and hands doing nothing but counting on me. And me wanting nothing else but to run crying into my own mom's room and have her do the whole thing. It's not going to happen....

Bobby is your classic urban teenaged boy -- impulsive, eager, restless. On his sixteenth birthday he gets some news from his girlfriend, Nia, that changes his life forever. She's pregnant. Bobby's going to be a father. Suddenly things like school and house parties and hanging with friends no longer seem important as they're replaced by visits to Nia's obstetrician and a social worker who says that the only way for Nia and Bobby to lead a normal life is to put their baby up for adoption.

With powerful language and keen insight, Johnson looks at the male side of teen pregnancy as she delves into one young man's struggle to figure out what "the right thing" is and then to do it. No matter what the cost.

Assignment: The book follows a pattern of Now and Then, life with a baby and life before a baby. As you are reading, create a list of activities that Bobby does Now compared to what he did Then. Finally, write a one paragraph summary of how you feel YOUR life would change if a baby were a part of it.

Flags of our Fathers by James S Bradley - *Mr. R Rattan*, SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: The story of the World War II battle of Iwo Jima and the men who raised the US flag. FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS is a brilliant work for so many reasons: it pays homage to the six men who raised the flag on Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima during WWII; it is a tribute to a father who felt strongly that the real heroes at Iwo were the boys who didn't come back.

Assignment: Write about three things that you learned from the story. Compare and contrast two characters in the story.

Flash Burnout by L.K. Madigan - *Ms. Bennett*, ESOL, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: "Winner of the 2010 William C. Morris Award!

Fifteen-year-old Blake has a girlfriend and a friend who's a girl. One of them loves him; the other one needs him.

When he snapped a picture of a street person for his photography homework, Blake never dreamed that the woman in the photo was his friend Marissa's long-lost meth addicted mom. Blake's participation in the ensuing drama opens up a world of trouble, both for him and for Marissa. He spends the next few months trying to reconcile the conflicting roles of Boyfriend and Friend. His experiences range from the comic (surviving his dad's birth control talk) to the tragic (a harrowing after-hours visit to the morgue).

In a tangle of life and death, love and loyalty, Blake will emerge with a more sharply defined snapshot of himself."

Review from: amazon.com

Assignment: Create a pretend online profile (much like a Facebook or Myspace profile) for one of your characters. Be sure to include typical profile information (location, birthday, relationship status, likes and dislikes, etc) as well as an "about me" section)

Also include, several status updates the character may have posted during different parts of the book. This assignment can be done on the computer but it also can be done with paper and pen.

Flash Burnout by L.K.Madigan - *Ms. Wilcox*, ENGLISH, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: William C. Morris award winner for Best Book by a first-time author.

"15 year old Blake has two girls in his life. One is his girlfriend, the other his girl friend. One loves him, the other needs him."

Assignment: The author, L.K. Madigan, is writing discussion questions for this WMHS reading group. Email me in July for an advance look at the discussion questions at Sally_D_Wilcox@mcpsmd.org

In the meantime, consider the following questions when writing your paper:

- Were the characters believable? Why or why not?

- Does the author's writing make you feel like you were there? How?

Think about the above questions as you write a letter to the author about what you liked about the book, what you did not like about the book, and why.

Girl With a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier - *Ms. J Amato*, For. Language / Art

Info: Although this book is fiction, it is based on the girl pictured in this authentic art masterpiece. In fact, painter Johannes Vermeer is one of the "Dutch Masters" of the 17th century. This painting has sometimes been referred to as the "Dutch Mona Lisa". I have already started reading this book, and I must say the author beautifully "paints" a story you can see in your mind. The story takes place in Delft, a small Dutch city with a big art community. The imagery is wonderful, as are the descriptions of the actual artworks Vermeer painted, and the process he may have used in his studio. You'll be inspired to google the paintings so you can see them as you read!

Vermeer has always been one of my favorite artists.

This book is 240 pages.

Assignment: Compare and contrast two characters in the story.

Girl with the Dragon Tatoo , The by Steig Larsson - *Ms. S Scott*, MATH, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: This spellbinding amalgam of murder mystery, family saga, love story, and financial intrigue was a sensation across Europe, with millions of copies sold. It's about the

disappearance forty years ago of Harriet Vanger—a young scion

of one of the wealthiest families in Sweden—her octogenarian

uncle's determination to discover the truth about what he

believes was her murder. It's about Mikael Blomkvist, a

crusading journalist recently at the wrong end of a libel

case, hired to get to the bottom of Harriet's disappearance,

and Lisbeth Salander, a twenty-four-year-old pierced,

tattooed genius hacker possessed of the hard-earned wisdom of

someone twice her age—and a terrifying capacity for

ruthlessness to go with it—who assists Blomkvist with the

investigation. This unlikely team discovers a vein of nearly

unfathomable iniquity running through the Vanger family,

astounding corruption in the highest echelons of Swedish

industrialism, and an unexpected connection between

themselves.

Assignment: Choose 2 of the following:

1. Write about three things that you learned from the story.

2. Compare and contrast two characters in the story.

3. Choose an important quote from one of the characters in the story. Write an explanation of why it would

or wouldn't be a good motto by which to live your life.

4. Tell 5 things you learned by reading the book.

Complete List of Books Sorted by Title

Updated : 8/27/2010

Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, The by Stieg Larsson - **Help, The** by Kathryn Stockett - *Mrs. Christen Reeves*,
Ms. L Itkin, PE / Health / Music SPECIAL EDUCATION, ENGLISH

Info: An international publishing sensation, Stieg Larsson's *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* combines murder mystery, family saga, love story, and financial intrigue into one satisfyingly complex and entertainingly atmospheric novel.

Harriet Vanger, a scion of one of Sweden's wealthiest families disappeared over forty years ago. All these years later, her aged uncle continues to seek the truth. He hires Mikael Blomkvist, a crusading journalist recently trapped by a libel conviction, to investigate. He is aided by the pieced and tattooed punk prodigy Lisbeth Salander. Together they tap into a vein of unfathomable iniquity and astonishing corruption.

Assignment: Compare and contrast two characters in the story.

Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, The by Stieg Larsson -
Ms. M Henry, MATH,

Info: Best seller! Suspense! Thriller!

Assignment: Choose an important quote from one of the characters in the story. Write an explanation of why it would or wouldn't be a good motto by which to live your life.

Good Thief, The by Hannah Tinti - *Mr. J Archer*,
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: *The Good Thief*, by Hannah Tinti, published by Dial Press, a division of Random House (9780385337458)

In this suspenseful and unpredictable adventure, Ren, a one-handed eighteenth-century orphan, becomes apprenticed to a con man. Surprisingly, Ren seems born to it.

Assignment: Write a one page summary of your favorite scene or chapter of the book and why it was interesting to you.

Help by Kathryn Stockett - *Mr. M Joy*, SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: Be prepared to meet three unforgettable women:

Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.

Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken.

Minnie, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own.

Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.

In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women-mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends-view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, *The Help* is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.

Assignment: Who was your favorite character and why? Write a one page essay on your favorite character in the book and provide details from the story as to why you liked that character.

Help by Kathryn Stockett - *N Van Tassell*, SOCIAL STUDIES,

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Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Help, The by Kathryn Stockett - *Mrs. Heather Smith-Covert*, ENGLISH, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: *The Help*, three ordinary women are about to take one extraordinary step . . . Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone. Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken. Minny, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can look like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job.

Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed. In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women - mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends - view one another. A deeply moving book filled with poignancy, humour, and hope, *The Help* is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.

Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Home on the Field, A by Paul Cuadros - *Mr. J Kinnetz*,
SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: A "Home on the Field" is a story about a reporter from a big city who came to a small town in North Carolina to write a story about Latino migrant workers in the dangerous poultry industry. While writing his story he became the soccer coach of a local high school. He made it his mission to show the local Latino youth that college could be a reality and that they didn't have to work in the poultry industry. He used the game of soccer to commit themselves to a brighter future. In Paul Cuadros's book, he writes about the successes and failures of his Latino student-athletes on their pathway to a North Carolina state championship in soccer.

Assignment: Explain how Paul Cuadros used soccer as a way to open up opportunities for the Latino youth he coached. Cite 5 examples from the book.

Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History, The by J.R. McNeill and William McNeill - *Mr. W Funk*,
SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: The spread of agriculture, the growth of world religions and the rise of European civilization to world dominance are some of the themes explored in this engrossing book. The motor of history is the growing "web" of interactions-weaving together hunter-gatherer bands, then civilizations and finally the whole world-by which people, goods, diseases and ideas spread.

Assignment: Write a short essay (@ 1 page) about the title. Is it appropriate? Why or why not? If it's not appropriate, what would be a more appropriate title and explain why it would be more appropriate?

Hyperion by Dan Simmons - *Mr. M Reese*, SCIENCE

Info: On the eve of Armageddon, with the entire galaxy at war, seven pilgrims set forth on a final voyage to Hyperion seeking the answers to the unsolved riddles of their lives. Each carries a desperate hope--and a terrible secret. And one may hold the fate of humanity in his hands.

Winner of the Hugo award

Assignment: Interview a character from your book. Write at least 10 questions that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his or her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story. Then, answer the questions from the character's point of view.

Complete List of Books Sorted by Title

Updated : 8/27/2010

I Know Why the caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
- *Ms. S Curry-Harrison*, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: This book is about an African American woman who struggles with exposing a dark secret concerning her mom's boyfriend. She is growing up in the South and is experiencing prejudices from the town and her own family. read this book to discover the secret.

Assignment: Write a letter to the author of the novel and explain how you feel about the book.

Illusions by Richard Bach - *Ms. D Kelly*, Business/Comp
Sci/Tech

Info: Richard Bach's mystical adventure story revolves around two barnstorming pilots who meet in a field in midwest America. The two main characters, who are doing what each one really wants to do, take on a relationship of teacher-student about the illusions that make reality.

Assignment: Create a pretend online profile (much like a Facebook or Myspace profile) for one of your characters. Be sure to include typical profile information (location, birthday, relationship status, likes and dislikes, etc) as well as an "about me" section)

Interview with the Vampire by Anne Rice - *Mr. Doug Woodruff*, PE / Health / Music, pe/music,

Info: In the now-classic novel Interview with the Vampire, Anne Rice refreshed the archetypal vampire myth for a late-20th-century audience. The story is ostensibly a simple one: having suffered a tremendous personal loss, an 18th-century Louisiana plantation owner named Louis Pointe du Lac descends into an alcoholic stupor. At his emotional nadir, he is confronted by Lestat, a charismatic and powerful vampire who chooses Louis to be his fledgling. The two prey on innocents, give their "dark gift" to a young girl, and seek out others of their kind (notably the ancient vampire Armand) in Paris. But a summary of this story bypasses the central attractions of the novel. First and foremost, the method Rice chose to tell her tale--with Louis' first-person confession to a skeptical boy--transformed the vampire from a hideous predator into a highly sympathetic, seductive, and all-too-human figure. Second, by entering the experience of an immortal character, one raised with a deep Catholic faith, Rice was able to explore profound philosophical concerns--the nature of evil, the reality of death, and the limits of human perception--in ways not possible from the perspective of a more finite narrator.

Assignment: Find the top 10 web sites a character in your book would most frequently visit. Include an explanation for each on why your character likes each of the sites.

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer - *Mr. J Lee*,

Info: Into the Wild is the true story of the mysterious life and death of Christopher Johnson McCandless, a talented young man from a good family who inexplicably turned his back on everything he seemed to have going for him. He graduated from Emory University in 1990, lost no time in giving away to charity the sizeable balance in his bank account, and then abruptly abandoned his past life and the personal identity all knew him by to basically disappear from the lives of family and friends. He anticipated that his parents would want to stop him, so he arranged to have his mail held for at least a month before it was returned to them, thereby giving himself ample time to leave for unknown parts unhindered by parental intervention. Although he had been outwardly obedient.....

Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Iraqi Girl: Diary of a Teenage Girl in Iraq
by Elizabeth Wrigley-Field and John Ross - *Ms. D Gordon*, For. Language / Art,

Info: About the book: In a country torn apart by war, a teenage girl blogs her story of family, friendship, and life under American occupation. IraqiGirl is the online journal of a teenage Iraqi girl from 2004 to 2007. She calls herself Hadiya, but uses this assumed name to keep herself safe. The idea that publicly expressing opinions is not a guaranteed right is just one of the many revelations in store for American teenagers who read this. While many of us have relatives or friends in the military and in the war, we have no idea what it is like to live on the battlefield. Hadiya's blog gives us an inside view of that experience. The terror of never knowing where the next shells will be fired or when the next car bomb will go off is real and achingly described. The lack of clean water, reliable electricity, or safe school buildings brings to life the destructive effects of war on civilians. This politically charged journal will be a difficult read for those with loved ones in the military, however. Hadiya's blog is strongly opposed to the American occupation. It makes negative generalizations about all of the American soldiers on the basis of some who have crossed the lines of decency. She includes guerilla kidnappings and sectarian violence in the list of things that were not a part of her life before the American occupation, but fails to take into consideration the direct causes of these atrocities. Her pain and anger at the destruction of her country and the personal loss in her family is genuine, and her story brings these realities into focus for readers who cannot imagine her experiences. This book is a worthy and engaging read, but best understood when taking her position into account and allowing the inclusion of other points of view.

Assignment: Choose 2 experiences that IraqiGirl had (or any character) that are TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY different than anything you have ever experienced and write about how you believe you would respond/react/feel etc to each situation. Write a paragraph minimum about each.

Then choose 2 experiences that are similar to something you have experienced. How do you think IraqiGirl would respond/react/feel? Write a paragraph minimum each.

It Happened in Italy by Elizabeth Bettina - *Ms. M Cimino*, ESOL

Info: The people of Italy defied the Holocaust of World War II. The author traces and meets survivors of Italian internment camps and tells amazing stories of survival and faith in the midst of sadness and horror.

Assignment: Think about the parts of the stories that amazed you. Then, describe five reasons why these stories were worth telling.

LA Candy by Lauren Conrad - *Ms. S Mentz*, SOCIAL
STUDIES

Info: Nineteen-year-old friends Jane and Scarlett move to Los Angeles for a new adventure. Jane plans to intern for an event planner while Scarlett attends classes at USC. When they're hand-picked to star in a new reality show -- described as a PG-version of Sex in the City -- cameras follow them everywhere. As the TV producer tells them, "No one moves here to be a nobody." When the show becomes a hit, the friends have to discover if becoming "somebody" means losing who they are.

Assignment: Pretend that you can spend a day with one of the characters. Which character would you choose? Why? What would you do?

Les Misérables by Victor Hugo - *Ms. S Ahalt*, For.
Language / Art

Info: Victor Hugo wrote this book in the middle of the 1800s to show the plight of the poor and downtrodden. American soldiers on both sides of the Civil War kept this book in their packs to read when they had time. It really spoke to people all over the world!

Assignment: Read the book and write a one-page essay about how you think the author made the readers feel sympathetic towards the characters in the book. Also, pick the character for whom you felt the most sympathy, and explain why.

Life is So Good by George Dawson and Richard
Glaubman - *Mr. J Torrence*, SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: In this remarkable book, 103-year-old George Dawson, a slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98, reflects on his life and offers valuable lessons in living as well as a fresh, firsthand view of America during the twentieth century.

Assignment: Write a letter to the author of your novel and explain how you feel about the book.

Life is So Good by George Dawson and Richard
Glaubman - *Ms. P Torrence*, SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Assignment: Write a letter to the author of your novel and explain how you feel about the book.

Lost Symbol, The by Dan Brown - *Mr. L Saucedo*,
SCIENCE

Info: Dan Brown is the author of the DaVinci Code, Angels & Demons, Deception Point, and Digital Fortress. In this novel, Robert Langdon is once again summoned to uncover the hidden meaning behind the Freemasons. The setting takes place in Washington DC, so many of the local landmarks are featured. Very good action throughout, as usual with Dan Brown novels.

Assignment: Draw three of the symbols given throughout the book and describe what each meant or come up with your own description, if it was not provided. OR Provide a description of the new science provided during the course of the book.

Lucky: A Memoir by Alice Sebold - *Ms. S Young*,
SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: When Sebold, the author of the current bestseller The Lovely Bones, was a college freshman at Syracuse University, she was attacked and raped on the last night of school, forced onto the ground in a tunnel "among the dead leaves and broken beer bottles." In a ham-handed attempt to mollify her, a policeman later told her that a young woman had been murdered there and, by comparison, Sebold should consider herself lucky. That dubious "luck" is the focus of this fiercely observed memoir about how an incident of such profound violence can change the course of one's life. Sebold launches her memoir headlong into the rape itself, laying out its visceral physical as well as mental violence, and from there spins a narrative of her life before and after the incident, weaving memories of parental alcoholism together with her post-rape addiction to heroin. In the midst of each wrenching episode, from the initial attack to the ensuing courtroom drama, Sebold's wit is as powerful as her searing candor, as she describes her emotional denial, her addiction and even the rape (her first "real" sexual experience). She skillfully captures evocative moments, such as, during her girlhood, luring one of her family's basset hounds onto a blue silk sofa (strictly off-limits to both kids and pets) to nettle her father. Addressing rape as a larger social issue, Sebold's account reveals that there are clear emotional boundaries between those who have been victims of violence and those who have not, though the author attempts to blur these lines as much as possible to show that violence touches many more lives than solely the victim's.

Assignment: Questions can be picked up from Ms. Young in Room B112.

Complete List of Books Sorted by Title

Updated : 8/27/2010

Make The Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger & Achieve the Extraordinary by Bill Strickland & Vince Rause - *Ms. S Sankey*, MATH

Info: Amazon.com Review

Community activist and MacArthur fellow Strickland explains the jazz expression tell your story as playing that doesn't just display your virtuosity, but also gives the audience a glimpse of your soul. He succeeds in doing just that. We get the virtuosity: he was an African-American kid from Pittsburgh's inner city who at 19 established what became Manchester-Bidwell, the now famous arts and job-training center for disadvantaged kids and adults. And we get the soul: he was spurred on by a mother who taught him to polish a wood floor until it gleamed no matter what was going on in the streets outside; an art teacher who believed in the aimless boy; a classroom where coffee brewed, jazz played softly, and he had the transformative experience of throwing his first clay pot. It's the American dream with a twist: for Strickland, it was never about shedding his past and getting ahead but about following his bliss and making a difference. Which is not to say the skilled fund-raiser isn't savvy. He touts the value of a Brooks Brothers suit and knowing the right people.

Assignment: Write a paragraph telling about the title. Is it appropriate? Why or why not? If it's not appropriate, what would be a more appropriate title?

Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco X. Stork - *Ms. F Atamas*, MATH

Info: Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers - *Ms. S Bratten*, SPECIAL EDUCATION, ENGLISH

Info: Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout.

Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system," cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life. Content: 9th - 12th grade. Reading level: 7th grade

Assignment: Select *ONE* of the activities to complete over the summer.

1. Interview Steve. Write 10 questions and then answer the questions from Steve's point of view.
2. Create another scene in the same screenplay style as the book.
3. Write & illustrate a short comic (at least 2 pages folded into a book) about something interesting/meaningful from the book.
4. Write a book review (at least 1/2 page).
5. If this book were to become a movie, select an actor whom you believe would be the best fit to play Steve. Write a letter to the actor & tell him why you think he would be the best person for the job.

Muchacho by Louanne Johnson - *Ms. T Wojtyna*, COUNSELING

Info: An angry juvenile delinquent in an alternative school is influenced by love, a special teacher, books and a criminal cousin as he tries to find his true self.

Assignment: Imagine that you are the author of the book you have just read. Suddenly, the book becomes a best seller. WRITE A LETTER TO A MOVIE PRODUCER TRYING TO GET THAT PERSON INTERESTED IN MAKING YOUR BOOK INTO A MOVIE. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggests a film location and the actors to play the various roles.

My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen - *Ms. J Pryphun*, ESOL

Info: ESOL students or students with a MAP-R score below 200 ONLY! There are MORE than 100 copies available at the Public Libraries. Gary Paulsen has owned dozens of unforgettable and amazing dogs, from Snowball, the puppy he owned as a boy in the Philippines to Josh, one of the remarkable dogs working on Paulsen's ranch today. My Life in Dog Years is a book for everyone that loves dogs and everyone that loves Paulsen's books. It is a collection of stories that show the joy and wisdom that come from growing up with man's best friend.

Assignment: Choose 1

1. Write an obituary for one of the characters(dogs); be sure to include life time accomplishments, organizational ties, and familial relationships. Be creative!
2. Create a timeline of Paulsen's life with the dogs he's owned, places,events.
3. Write your own "chapter" for a book about your life describing a time in your life in which your life can be defined in "dog/cat/pet" years.

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult - *Ms. A Redman*, SCIENCE

Info: Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age thirteen, she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate - a life and a role that she has never questioned... until now. Like most teenagers, Anna is beginning to question who she truly is. But unlike most teenagers, she has always been defined in terms of her sister - and so Anna makes a decision that for most would be unthinkable... a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves. My Sister's Keeper examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life... even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are, if that quest makes you like yourself less?

Assignment: Identify a life changing decision you had to make in your own life. Write a paragraph to describe the pros and cons of your decision and a paragraph to describe how you made your decision. Would you change your decision if you could? why or why not?

Neverwhere by Neil Gaiman - *Mrs. Kathryn Reilly*, ENGLISH

Info: Amazon.com Review

Neverwhere's protagonist, Richard Mayhew, learns the hard way that no good deed goes unpunished. He ceases to exist in the ordinary world of London Above, and joins a quest through the dark and dangerous London Below, a shadow city of lost and forgotten people, places, and times. His companions are Door, who is trying to find out who hired the assassins who murdered her family and why; the Marquis of Carabas, a trickster who trades services for very big favors; and Hunter, a mysterious lady who guards bodies and hunts only the biggest game. London Below is a wonderfully realized shadow world, and the story plunges through it like an express passing local stations, with plenty of action and a satisfying conclusion. The story is reminiscent of Douglas Adams's The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, but Neil Gaiman's humor is much darker and his images sometimes truly horrific. Puns and allusions to everything from Paradise Lost to The Wonderful Wizard of Oz abound, but you can enjoy the book without getting all of them. Gaiman is definitely not just for graphic-novel fans anymore. --Nona

Vero

Select four of the ten discussion questions and respond to them. Enjoy!

Assignment: Select 4 of the 10 Discussion questions on the publisher's site and respond with details! <http://www.harpercollins.com/author/authorExtra.aspx?isbn13=9780380789016&displayType=readingGuide>

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult - *Ms. E Willard*, SCIENCE,

Info: From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Bestseller Picoult (*My Sister's Keeper*) takes on another contemporary hot-button issue in her brilliantly told new thriller, about a high school shooting. Peter Houghton, an alienated teen who has been bullied for years by the popular crowd, brings weapons to his high school in Sterling, N.H., one day and opens fire, killing 10 people. Flashbacks reveal how bullying caused Peter to retreat into a world of violent computer games. Alex Cormier, the judge assigned to Peter's case, tries to maintain her objectivity as she struggles to understand her daughter, Josie, one of the surviving witnesses of the shooting. The author's insights into her characters' deep-seated emotions brings this ripped-from-the-headlines read chillingly alive. (Mar.)

Assignment: Write a letter from one of the characters in the story to another character in the story.

Of Sound Mind by Jean Ferris - *Mrs. J Carr*, COUNSELING

Info: This book is about a high school senior who is fluent in English and American Sign Language. The young man has numerous family responsibilities because his parents and his brother are deaf. He is frustrated because he meets a new girl in school and he does not have enough time to spend with her.

Assignment: 8. Write about three things you learned from the story

Pact, The by Jodi Picoult - *Ms. S Gordon*, MATH

Info: Until the phone calls came at three o'clock on a November morning, the Golds and their neighbors, the Hartes, had been inseparable. It was no surprise to anyone when their teenage children, Chris and Emily, began showing signs that their relationship was moving beyond that of lifelong friends. But now seventeen-year-old Emily is dead -- shot with a gun her beloved and devoted Chris pilfered from his father's cabinet as part of an apparent suicide pact -- leaving two devastated families stranded in the dark and dense predawn, desperate for answers about an unthinkable act and the children they never really knew.

Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Piano Lesson, The by August Wilson - *Mr. J Allen*, ENGLISH

Info: The play concerns a brother and a sister who argue about whether they should sell their family piano. Boy Willie, a sharecropper from the Mississippi, wants to sell his family's ancestral piano to buy land that his family worked on as slaves. His Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania sister Berniece insists on keeping it. The piano has the carved faces of their great-grandfather's wife and son, who were sold in exchange for the piano during the days of enslavement.

Assignment: Where does "The Piano Lesson" fall in the canon of August Wilson's plays? Why do you think he chose to write this particular play at that particular point in his career/canon of plays?

Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver - *Ms. M DuBois*, ENGLISH

Info: .

Assignment: Write a letter to the author of your novel and explain how you feel about the book.

Present, The by Spencer Johnson, MD - *K Krill*, Business/Comp Sci/Tech

Info: The Present, a three-fold way of living and working. The character in the book explains how it works: in order to achieve bliss in life, it's important to pay equal attention to the past (learn from mistakes), the present (live in the moment) and the future (plan for it as best as possible, but don't "lose yourself in worry or anxiety").

Assignment: Write a two page paper about three things that you learned from the story.

Required Reading - AP Language - *WMHS Staff*,

Info:

Assignment:

Complete List of Books Sorted by Title

Updated : 8/27/2010

Required Reading - AP Literature - WMHS Staff,**Info:****Assignment:****Required Reading - Eng 09 Pre IB - WMHS Staff,****Info:** Read Ender's Game**Assignment:****Required Reading - Eng 10 Pre IB - WMHS Staff,****Info:****Assignment:****Required Reading - Eng 11 IB 1 - WMHS Staff,**

Info: Read 1 non-fiction book, and answer an essay. For the school-wide reading session in September, you will need to discuss TWO LONG POEMS, Browning's 'My Last Duchess' and Donne's "Elegy 19"

Assignment:**Required Reading - Eng 12 IB 2 - WMHS Staff,****Info:****Assignment:****Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D Taylor - Ms. Sharon Fitzgerald, MAIN OFFICE,**

Info: The Logan family works hard to keep the small piece of farmland they own. They endure many racial injustices. The children are harassed by a school bus full of white children, so they dig out a ditch in the road, trapping the bus and breaking the axle. Cassie, one of the Logan daughters, takes a trip to the nearby town of Strawberry and is shocked by the disrespect she is greeted with. Meanwhile, more serious problems are developing. The Wallace boys burn some local black men, killing one, and so the Logan family begins a boycott of their store. When Stacey, their oldest boy, gets in a fight with his best friend T. J. at the Wallace store, Mama decides to take a tour of the local community and urge people not to let their children go there and not to purchase goods there. However, many families have nowhere else to shop. The Logans offer to buy good for them in Vicksburg, and Mr. Jamison backs their credit.

Assignment: Describe a situation where you felt like you were being mistreated because of the color of your skin, gender, sexual orientation or religion. What advice would you give the characters in the story and your peers when it comes to resolving matters concerning diversity?

Saving CeeCee Honeycutt by Beth Hoffman - Ms. C Gibson, Business/Comp Sci/Tech

Info: A southern tale about a young girl who loses her mother but finds many others.

Assignment: Write about three things that you learned from the story.

Shack, The by William P. Young - Ms. E Houston Houston, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: Mackenzie Allen Phillip's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in this midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgement he arrives at the shack on a wintery afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change his life forever.

Assignment: Write about 3 things that you learned from the story.

Shack, The by William P. Young - Ms. L Landsperger, For. Language / Art

Info: This book tackles the question: Where is God in a world filled with unspeakable pain? It is a fictional story, and very controversial. Some Christians feel it is the best thing and compare it to Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan. Other Christians feel it is blasphemy. You decide for yourself.

Assignment: Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during or after the book's events. It should have at least three entries. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.

Sharp's Rifles by Benard Cornwell - Mr. D McLean, MATH

Info: Bernard Cornwell writes of the life and times of the main character, Richard Sharp. Sharp is an enlisted man in the British Army, who through an act of heroism, becomes an officer. The book details his problems and successes in making the change from soldier to officer. The book captures the war between France and England and the role of the small British army in Spain.

Assignment: You'll write an obituary for the main character. Assume that two years after the book ends, he's involved in a major battle and is killed. Study obituaries in the news paper and write one for the character.

Silver International by Students From Around the World - Mr. J Bellino, MAIN OFFICE, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: Silver International is the Web version of an international student publication. Silver International includes stories and articles written by international students from all over the world. You can find personal stories that students wrote about leaving their countries, coming to live in the U.S. and experiencing a new life and a new culture. You can also find news articles about topics students experienced or learned about here in the U.S or in other countries. Of the 22 volumes that were created, there are 12 on the Internet that include more than 500 different articles. You can connect to Silver International at <<http://silverinternational.mbhs.edu/>>. Search for articles about your favorite countries and see what other students have written about them.

Students who have computers but cannot access the Internet can get a CD of the Web archive. Students will be able to read the articles without connecting to the Internet. Students who do not have computers, can request printed issues of old copies of the paper that will be mailed to them.

Assignment: - Read at least 20 different articles.

- List the title, author, volume number, and issue number of each article you read.

- Write one or two sentences telling what each article was about.

- Write your own article. It can be about your own experiences, about news from school, about a country you know about or used to live in, etc. When we return to school, students will have the opportunity to polish and publish their writing if they want.

Sold by Patricia McCormick - Ms. C Bowles, MEDIA CENTER

Info: Lakshmi is a 13 year old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. Her family is desperately poor, but still her life is full of simple pleasures. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all the remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family.

He introduces her to a glamorous stranger who tells her she will find her a job as a maid working for a wealthy woman in the city. Glad to be able to help, Kashmi undertakes the long journey to India and arrives at "Happiness House" full of hope. But she soon learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution.

A Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book 2008-2009

Assignment: 1. Lakshmi was initially sold for about 800 Nepali rupees. Determine the current exchange rate between US dollars and Nepali or Indian rupees and calculate the amount for which she was sold. Bring this amount to life by making a list of things you and your family routinely buy for that amount.

AND...

2. Investigate various web sites including www.friendsofmaitinepal.org to find out about how people all over the world are working to help stop trafficking in Nepal. Write a letter imagining you have been trafficked and this is your chance to communicate with the outside world.

Sorta Like a Rock Star by Matthew Quick - P Bucher, MATH

Info: Amber Appleton lives in a bus. Ever since her mom's boyfriend kicked them out, Amber, her mom, and her totally loyal dog, Bobby Big Boy (aka Thrice B) have been camped out in the back of Hello Yellow (the school bus her mom drives). Still, Amber, the self-proclaimed princess of hope and girl of unyielding optimism, refuses to sweat the bad stuff. But when a fatal tragedy threatens Amber's optimism--and her way of life, can Amber continue to be the rock star of hope?

With an oddball cast of characters, and a heartwarming, inspiring story, this novel unveils a beautifully beaten-up world of laughs, loyalty, and hard-earned hope. The world is Amber's stage, and Amber is, well... she's sorta like a rock star. True? True.

Assignment: Have you ever known anybody like Amber? If so, how are they alike and how are they different? How about you? What do you and Amber have in common? What do you think about her way of handling life's tragedies?

Stealing Heaven by Elizabeth Scott - Ms. J Tyler, PE / Health / Music

Info: Danielle, 18, has been a thief all her life. Moving from town to town, she and her mom stay around only long enough to canvas the rich and steal their silver. When she was 15, they moved on at Danielle's request, after she had sex for "the first and only time" with her mother's 20-year-old boyfriend. It's a lifestyle the teen is used to, but she's beginning to long for something more. She wants roots, friends, and a place to call home. When they hit the small resort town of Heaven, Danielle knows the routine. Her mom will chat up the men for information and she, now using the name Sydney, is supposed to do the same with her peers. Only something goes wrong, and "Sydney" begins to make friends with the mark, flirt with a local cop, and generally do everything her mom's always told her to avoid. And when it's time for the heist, Danielle is no longer sure she can follow her mom's demands. This story is deceptively touching. Danielle and her mother are both fully developed, as are the secondary characters of Allison (the friend) and Greg (the young cop). The overriding theme of living up to a parent's expectations instead of following your own path is universal, but the twist of a family of thieves gives the story originality.

Assignment: Interview a character from your book. Write at least 10 questions that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his or her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story. Then, answer the questions from the character's point of view.

Complete List of Books Sorted by Title

Stolen Legacy: Greek Philosophy is Stolen Egyptian Philosophy by George G.M. James - *Mr. T Belote*, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Info: The book *Stolen Legacy* written by George G. M. James asserts that Greek philosophy is stolen Egyptian Philosophy. Challenging the notion that civilization started in Greece, this uncompromising classic attempts to prove that the true authors of Greek philosophy were not Greeks but Egyptians. The text asserts that the praise and honor blindly given to the Greeks for centuries rightfully belong to the people of Africa, and argues that the theft of this great African legacy led to the erroneous world opinion that the African continent has made no contribution to civilization. Quoting such celebrated Greek scholars as Herodotus, Hippocrates, Aristotle, Thales, and Pythagoras, who admit to the influence of Egyptian studies in their work, this edition sheds new light on traditional philosophical and historical thought. Originally published in 1954, this book features a new introduction.

Assignment: 1. Tell 8-10 things you learned by reading the book.
2. Write a 5 paragraph book report (intro, 3 body, & conclusion)

Stuart Little by E. B. White - *Ms. L Trang*, ESOL

Info: This book is for ESOL I and II students. Go to the Children section of the public library to borrow this book. Stuart Little is the story of a mouse, who's been adopted by a family called the Littles. It is a children's story.

Assignment: 1. Would you like to be two inches tall? Why or why not?
2. What were some of the helpful things that Stuart did around the house?
3. What were some of the things that the Little family did to make Stuart's life easier despite his small size?

Sundays at Tiffany's by James Patterson - *Mrs. AM Walker*, COUNSELING,

Info: This book begins with Jane Margaux and her imaginary friend, Michael, spending a Sunday at the St. Regis Plaza in New York City. Michael is an imaginary friend who is randomly assigned to children who need extra support and guidance. He is called away from the children when they are nine, at which point they forget about the existence of their "friend". Jane and Michael reunite more than 20 years later. What if your imaginary friend from childhood was your one true love?

Assignment: List 5 gifts that Michael could have given Jane on her 9th birthday before he left her so that she would never forget him. Explain, in depth, the meaning behind each gift and what it signifies.

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher - *Ms. M Pettit*, SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker--his classmate and crush--who committed suicide two weeks earlier. On tape, Hannah explains that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out how he made the list. Through Hannah and Clay's dual narratives, debut author Jay Asher weaves an intricate and heartrending story of confusion and desperation that will deeply affect teen readers.

Assignment: Choose one of the "reasons why" Hannah committed suicide. Describe when you have been in a similar situation in your life, and describe how you handled it. Then, offer a suggestion for what Hannah could have done differently.

Thousand Splendid Suns, A by Khaled Hosseini - *Mr. A Schwartz*, SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in war-torn Kabul, losses incurred over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage.

Assignment: Write a book review as it would be done in a newspaper.

Thousand Splendid Suns, A by Khaled Hosseini - *Ms. Ahmed*, SCIENCE,

Info:

Assignment: Answer each of the questions in 3-5 sentences each:

- Which character, Miriam or Laila, do you most understand or relate to? Why?
- Do agree with what each character did?
- What is the difference between culture and religion? Is there a difference? Why?

Triathlon 101 by John Mora - *Mr. B Clark*, SOCIAL STUDIES

Info: *Triathlon 101* covers the essentials of learning to compete in a triathlon race. A triathlon consists of swimming, biking, and running in that particular order. This book helps readers find proper equipment and lets you develop your own training program. Those students who want to get in shape to not only look good but feel good should sign up. *Triathlon 101* is a good read for beginners who are looking to compete in triathlons at some point in their futures.

Assignment: Write a 1-2 page paper on the necessary equipment for a race, a 6-week training program, and what proper foods to eat leading up to the race.

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom - *Mr. K Horkan*, COUNSELING

Info: Mitch Albom chronicles the time he spent with Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago, after he rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.

Assignment: Write about three things that you learned from the story.

Twilight by Stephenie Meyer - *Mr. J Harris*, MEDIA CENTER

Info: Bella Swan goes to live with her dad in a teeny, tiny town and falls in love with the local, and very charismatic vampire Edward. What is peculiar about Edward and his vampire family is that they do not feed on people and attempt to live normal lives among humans. Suspense abounds as Edward and his family try to keep Bella and her family safe from James and his vampire clan. Thick with young romance, suspense and a tad of violence.

Assignment: Pick one:
Write about 3 things that you learned from the story.

OR

Pretend that you can spend a day with one of the characters. Which character would you choose? Why? What would you do?

Who Moved My Cheese for Teens by Spencer Johnson, M.D. - *Ms. D. Coleman*, Business/Comp Sci/Tech, SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Info: "Who Moved My Cheese?" helps adolescents deal with changes in their lives. Four characters--Hem, Haw, Sniff, and Scurry--search through a maze for Cheese, a metaphor for what you want to have in life. As they find and lose the Cheese, some of the characters learn to move with the Cheese and discover how to deal with change.

"Who Moved My Cheese?" for Teens" offers a wonderful and entertaining way to get teens talking about the changes in their lives and provides insight that will last a lifetime.

Assignment: Change Events Recording Sheet
Record three Change Events from your cards and predict how each, Who Moved My Cheese character would react to it.

Yellow Raft in Blue Water, A by Michael Dorris - *Ms. S Miller*, SPECIAL EDUCATION, ENGLISH

Info: The emotional terrain of lives led without the steady presence of fathers or husbands is common ground for the three generations of American Indian women who successively tell their stories in this absorbing novel. Rayona, 15, half black and half Indian, is abandoned by her mother and in turn abandons her Aunt Ida. She disappears from their Montana reservation one summer and gains independence through a job at Bear Paw Lake State Park and a surprising foray into rodeo stardom. Her mother faces what appears to be the last days of her often wild life in the kind company of a misunderstood man who was both a childhood friend and enemy on the reservation. Linked to both is Aunt Ida, the stony family matriarch who lost her favored son to the Vietnam War and now warms her heart before the electronic fires of television soap operas. The bitter rifts and inevitable bonds between generations are highlighted as the story unravels and spills out a long-kept family secret (book jacket synopsis).

Assignment: Imagine you are the author of the book you have just read. Suddenly, the book becomes a best seller. Write a letter to a movie producer trying to get that person interested in making your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles.