

## Vance Charter School

# **RIISING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

## Summer Reading Assignment

Vance Charter School encourages students to become life-long readers and learners by asking them to read during non-instructional time.

We believe that students who read over the summer:

- Maintain or improve reading comprehension and vocabulary.
- Broaden their experience, knowledge and understanding.
- Experience personal and academic success by developing their literacy skills.
- Become lifelong readers.

### **Important Things to Know:**

1. You will be expected to read the novel(s) and complete all assignments neatly and thoroughly. Do not omit any questions.
2. Feel free to either handwrite or type your answers.
3. The summer reading assignment is for students taking English I or Honors English I.
4. The summer reading assignments will be due on Friday, August 31 (**regardless of when you are taking English I.**)

### **Where can I locate these novels?**

You have multiple options in locating the required novels.

- 1) **Libraries** - The local libraries (Vance, Granville, Warren, Franklin, etc.) can all point you in the right direction to gain access to borrowing or checking out books on the summer reading lists.
- 2) **Purchase online** – Amazon, Target, Walmart, and Barnes & Noble all offer extensive websites that allow readers to shop for hardback or paperback copies online.
- 3) **In a bookstore** – Large chain bookstores, like Barnes & Noble, keep popular reading list books in stock in their stores. They can also special order books.
- 4) **Download** – if you have an iPad, iPod, iPhone, Nook, laptop, or any type of tablet or electronic device, this option works best. Most books on the list can be downloaded using Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Google Play, or Audible. Download prices tend to be cheaper too (not as cheap as borrowing from the library, but you get the idea).

### **Am I required to complete the summer reading assignment?**

The summer reading assignment will consist of a homework grade AND a test grade during the first nine-week grading period of English I (regardless of the semester). If a student fails to turn in the assignment, he/she will receive a “0” for both a homework AND a test grade during the first nine-week grading period. It is completely in the hands of the student to decide if he/she wants to benefit or be penalized concerning the summer reading assignment.

## **Summer Reading Novels**

### **Academic**

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck (Human Nature/Friendship/Loneliness)

### **Honors**

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck (Human Nature/Friendship/Loneliness)

The Book Thief – Markus Zusak (Personal Journey / Survival / Holocaust)

*(Honors students must read both novels. Please feel free to make copies of the following forms to use for each novel.)*

### **Written Assignment**

Attached are two (2) graphic organizers to help you plan and prepare your written assignments. You must complete both parts of the assignment for each book you read.

Your final answers may be hand-written on notebook paper or typed. Please put your name on the top of each assignment.

### **Questions?**

Contact Mrs. Nowell at [nowellj@vancecharter.org](mailto:nowellj@vancecharter.org)

**Character Analysis:** This graphic organizer will help you gather information on the main character or protagonist in the novel. Please be sure to use specific examples from the novel, including direct quotes and page number.

Copy a direct quote from the book that shows the protagonist's most dominant personality trait in action. (Include the page number).

Explain in 2-4 sentences how this reveals an important personality trait and why it's significant.

Copy a direct quote that shows a key interaction between the protagonist and another significant character. (Include the page number).

Explain what this interaction reveals about their relationship. Include specific ideas and examples in 2-4 sentences.

Explain in 4-6 sentences how the main character grows, changes, or what he/she learns during the course of the novel. If he or she does not change, explain what keeps him or her static. Include specific ideas from the story.

Analyzing a Story's Theme: This part of the project is designed to help you discover the theme of the novel.

In a clear sentence, explain an important message about life you think the author is trying to express in the novel.

Please write down the first piece of evidence, a direct quotation from the text, and explain how the evidence supports the theme or message.

Evidence #1 (direct quote):

How does this evidence support or connect to the theme?

Please write down your second piece of evidence, a direct quotation from the text, and explain how the evidence supports the theme or message.

Evidence #2 (direct quote):

How does this evidence support or connect to the theme?