



Stratford High School 2018-2019

HONORS English II Summer Reading Assignments

Rising English II Honors – *The Book Thief* (Markus Zusak) and a second novel of your choice at an appropriate high school level

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

GRADE	ASSIGNMENT	TIME FRAME
English II Honors (High School)	After Reading: Students will take part in a Socratic seminar followed by a critical writing assignment.	After Reading: Completed by the third week of school

****Newly placed or newly registered students have 3 weeks from entry to complete the assignments.***

Socratic Seminar

A Socratic seminar is a way of teaching founded by the Greek philosopher Socrates. Socrates believed that students learn best by asking questions.

Socratic Seminars help us engage a text in class. The thought process is when you work together to understand a text it will help everyone’s understanding.

- **It is essential you read the text and prepare yourself with important questions and quotations.**
- **There are three levels of questions.**

Level 1 (Knowledge Questions):

- Knowledge means being able to show understanding by talking, writing, signing, drawing.

Please use the following stems in creating your Knowledge Questions:

- Can you state, **in your own words**?
- Can you **describe**?
- **Can you defend** your position?
- **Can you summarize** the information?

Level II (Application Questions):

Application means supporting your ideas with evidence.

Please use the following stems in creating your Application Questions:

- **Explain how ...**
- **Explain why ...**
- **Interpret the reasons ...**
- **Compare and contrast ...**
- **Connect and explain ...**

Level III (Synthesis Questions):

Synthesis means combining or connecting two different elements.

In terms of the Socratic Seminar you will be connecting two texts with each other OR connecting a text to the outside world.

Please use the following stems in creating your Synthesis Questions:

- **Imagine ...**
- **What would happen if ...?**
- **Hypothesize ...**
- **Theorize ...**
- **Speculate...**
- **How is Text similar to Outside World?**

SUGGESTED TITLES

Fiction Texts such as:

- *The Good Earth*, Pearl S. Buck (T)
- *Nectar in a Sieve*, Kamala Markandaya
- *The Pearl*, John Steinbeck (T)
- **Revolution*, Jennifer Donnelly
- *Climbing the Stairs*, Padma Venkatraman (E)
- *Lost Horizon*, James Hilton (T, J)
- *Copper Sun*, Sharon Draper (E)
- **Shabana: Daughter of the Wind*, Suzanne Fisher Staples (or others in that series) (E)
- *An Ocean Apart, A World Away*, Lensey Naimioka (E)
- *Kira-Kira*, Cynthia Kodahata (E)
- *The Breadwinner*, Deborah Ellis (E)
(and others by this writer)
- *The Life of Pi*, Yann Martel (J)
- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, Julia Alvarez
(and others by this author) (J)
- *Estrella's Quinceanera*, Melin Alegria
- *Tree Girl*, Ben Mikaelson (J)
- *Sarah's Key*, Tatiana de Rosnay (E)
- *A Great and Terrible Beauty*, Libba Bray (J)
(and others in this series)
- *Keeping Corner*, Kashmira Sheth
- *Parvana's Journey*, Deborah Ellis
- *Boys Without Names*, Kashmira Sheth (E)
- *Mexican Whiteboy*, Matt de la Pena (E)
- *The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway (T)

Informational Texts such as:

- **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, Dee Brown (J)
- *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Azar Nafisi (J)
- *Crossing Over: One Woman's Escape from Amish Life*, Ruth Irene Garrett
- *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo*, Zlata Filipovic
- **Autobiography of a Face*, Lucy Grealy (E)
- *A School for My Village: A Promise to the Orphans of Nyaka*, Twesigye Jackson Kaguri
- *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Anne Fadiman (E)
- *The Big Truck that Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster*, Jonathan M. Katz
- *Red Scarf Girl*, Ji-Li Jiang
- *The Golden Ratio*, Mario Livio (E)
- *Hello Goodbye Hello: A Circle of 101 Remarkable Meetings*, Craig Brown
- **I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*, Malala Yousafzai

T= Traditional favorites

*= Mature language or topics.

(E) = available on the district e-bookshelf

(J) = available on the public library e-bookshelf
via <http://berkeleylibrarysc.org/>