



Tallulah Falls School 9th Grade Required Summer Reading 2018

Dear students,

This summer of 2018, you will purchase your own copy of the book *To Kill a Mockingbird (TKM)* to read and journal. Your summer reading journal is a place where you can reflect upon and draw meaning. In *TKM*, there are 31 chapters. Choosing a comprehensive approach to the book, you will journal as you read, reflecting that you have read the entire book.

1. **Cover:** Create a journal of the book (100 points). Decorate the outside. Use creativity, color, images, words, etc. Include the book title, the author, and your name, creatively displayed on the front. This is a separate grade from the content.

2. **Content:**

**Chapter title* (15 points): You must identify at least 15 of the 31 chapters used, demonstrating you have read the entire book. Label each chapter entry with the chapter title or number. You do not have to journal all 31 chapters. Choose 15 of your favorite! Is each page of your journal labeled and clearly marked? 1 point each chapter.

**Grammar* (25 points): Your writing must be neat, legible, and grammatically correct (always write in complete sentences). You can choose between handwritten or typed.

**Journal Topics:* Choose 4 out of the 8 of the journaling topic entries and label each. You do not have to do all 8! Choose 4 of your favorite for each chapter (60 points).

Journaling Topics:

1. **CRAFT:** think about author's craft (decisions the author made).
2. **CONNECTION:** make connections to yourself, the world, or other literature. Or you can make connections between the theme and contemporary issues.
3. **FORESHADOW:** make predictions.
4. **REFLECTION:** reflect upon yourself as a reader (strategies, strengths & struggles). Record your reactions and responses to what you have read. In this setting, it is okay to write, "I think..."
5. **QUESTION:** create questions to guide class discussions.
6. **EVIDENCE:** cite important passages and descriptions that stick with you, and explain why they stood out to you.
7. **VOCABULARY:** record new, unusual, and unfamiliar language. Cite the page number (Lee 217).
8. **LITERARY DEVICES:** consider literary devices the author uses and how that impacts the author's message.

**Remove any extra blank paper from your journal.*

**See the example of a journal entry attached to this letter.*

Your summer reading journal will also serve as a place for you to demonstrate your willingness to read and your thoughtfulness as a reader. Submit your journal on the first day of school, and it will be a portion of your first semester project grade. I hope that you enjoy your experience with this book! I look forward to seeing you in August. Enjoy your summer!

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***Student Journal Entry Example**

A journal excerpt from the book *Speak*, by Laurie Halse Anderson

Chapter 12, “Cold Weather and Buses”

1. **Connection:** In this chapter, Melinda’s mom is angry with her for missing the bus again. This has happened to me before. When my mom and I fight, it tends to ruin my day, even if I know she is right.
2. **Reflection:** I can really read quickly when I am interested in the topic. I can relate to exactly how Melinda feels...alone. I think Melinda really needs to talk to her mom. Talking is best, and it always makes me feel better when I do. I wonder why she is so afraid to talk about her feelings.
3. **Question:** Does the guidance counselor at Melinda’s school notice that she is often late to school, and when she is present, that she isn’t speaking to anyone? Why doesn’t she intervene?
4. **Evidence:** “I miss the bus because I couldn’t believe how dark it was when my alarm clock went off” (Anderson 95). I think it is telling that her first comment upon waking up is darkness. She is depressed.
5. **Literary Devices:** Metaphor: “BunnyRabbit bolts leaving fast tracks in the snow.” She is the rabbit running away from the bully at her school. This example gives imagery...a picture of her quick movements to escape. It also gives the example of the predator against its prey.