

## 2014-2015 PRE-REQUISITE READING

English II Honors

### **DUE FIRST DAY OF ENGLISH CLASS**

#### **PART ONE**

The first part of this assignment is simple: read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. You may use local libraries to borrow this title, or you can find the novel in bookstores in the area. Ordering from sites such as *amazon.com*, *booksense.com*, and other online bookstores is a possibility. On the first day of class, be prepared to take a test, write an essay, or give a speech on the novel.

#### **PART TWO**

In addition to reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, you will need to purchase a novel (hardback or paper) that has been **first published within the past year**. Check the Best Seller lists (fiction) at the libraries, bookstores, Walmart, etc. for the most recent novels. You may check the publication date on the backside of the title page. Make sure that the book is not a reprint of a novel that was published much earlier. If you have doubts, then read the information on the back cover, introductory remarks, author information, etc. that you can find with a quick browse through the book. You will not receive credit for the assignment if you fail to meet this requirement, no matter if you thought you were reading a novel first published within the past year and instead picked up one published earlier. It's your responsibility to find out and make sure.

You should NOT read one of those classics that you might have to STUDY for school. You SHOULD pick up a book that you might (yes, actually might) ENJOY READING. The nationality of the author does not matter.

Of course, since this is school, there are strings attached with this assignment.

1. Select a book that is at least 250 pages. Make sure you bring the book with you on the first day of class.
2. Complete three journal entries for your novel. Answer each question in all three journal entries.

#### ***JOURNAL ENTRY 1 – FIRST 3<sup>RD</sup> OF THE NOVEL - Length – minimum of 150 words***

##### **GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- What information did you need to know before reading this novel?
- Why did you choose to read this novel?
- What has happened before the novel began?
- Who is telling the story?
- What is the setting and why is it important to the novel?
- What is the initial problem(s) faced by the main character?
- How does the author get your attention or hold your interest?
- Choose a quote and explain its importance to the novel.

#### ***JOURNAL ENTRY 2 – MIDDLE 3<sup>RD</sup> OF THE NOVEL - Length – minimum of 150 words***

##### **GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- What new things are added to the original problem as the novel progresses?
- What plot twists or unexpected events happen?
- What have you discovered about the author's style?
- Is there a message or a main theme emerging in the book?
- Describe **at least two** of the characters. Go beyond just the physical characteristics.
- Choose a quote and explain its importance to the novel.

**(Journal Entry 3 appears on the following page.)**

***JOURNAL ENTRY 3 – LAST 3<sup>RD</sup> OF THE NOVEL - Length – minimum of 150 words***

**GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- What is the climax of the novel?
- How are the major and minor conflicts resolved?
- What message did you get from the novel?
- How was this message conveyed?
- How realistic is the novel?
- How is the title important to the main idea of the novel?
- How does the novel compare to others that you have read?
- Why would you (or why wouldn't you) recommend this novel to a friend?
- Choose a quote and explain its importance to the novel.

***Obviously, some of you may read the same title. That's OK, but each of you must have a copy of whatever title you read.***

**PLEASE NOTE: Some books may contain language and situations intended for mature readers. You should have parent or guardian approval in selecting the book you read.**