

## Giff Hill School High School Summer Reading List

*Reading is not only enjoyable, but it is also essential to keeping your brain healthy and thriving over the summer. **Students taking English for standard credit will read the standard book written below. Students taking the course for honors credit must read the standard book AND the honors book. All students will complete a project chosen from the list of options below READY TO TURN IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL. Everyone must complete their project on the standard book choice. Honors students will have a separate assessment when we return to school for their honors book.** Additionally, all students should select a book of their choice from the faculty picks list that will be circulated separately. You will meet with other students who also picked the book and the faculty member sponsoring it for a fun book club-style event at the beginning of the year. In summary, high school students taking English for standard credit will read a total of two books over the summer (the standard book and a faculty book club pick), and students taking English for honors credit will read a total of three books (the standard book, the honors book, and a faculty book club pick). Every student will complete a project on the standard book choice.*

9	Standard: <u>Turtles All the Way Down</u> by: John Green *available on Sora Honors: <u>Ender's Game</u> by: Orson Scott Card *available on Sora
10	Standard: <u>The Book Thief</u> by: Markus Zusak *available on Sora Honors: <u>The Alchemist</u> by: Paulo Coelho
11 and 12	Standard: <u>Water for Elephants</u> by: Sara Gruen Honors: <u>The Firekeeper's Daughter</u> by: Angeline Boulley

## Giff Hill School Grades 9-12 Summer Reading Projects

Your projects will provide evidence that you read the novels, but more importantly, they will push you to engage with the novels in a more personal way. Students will present their projects to the class during the first week of school, and then work in small groups using their projects to lead a class discussion about the assigned novels. Choose one project below that best fits your interests and/or talents.

1. Shoebox Scrapbook: Compile a scrapbook of memorabilia that one of the main characters might have collected or come across during the novel. All artifacts must be accompanied by a museum-style inventory list including a description of the item, how/why the character acquired it, and its significance to him/her. You should have at least ten pieces of memorabilia.
  
2. Novel Playlist: Create a playlist of 5-7 songs that represent the themes/characters/events in the story. Design a graphic for your playlist (like a CD cover) and on the back of your graphic write a brief (5-7 sentences) explanation of the relationship between each song you chose and the book. It should be evident from the list that you have read and fully understand the themes of the book and how they are connected to the lyrics or mood of the songs you chose. You must include a copy of the lyrics for each song.

3. **Character Diary:** You may use drawings you invent, pictures you cut from magazines, small objects, and written entries. What do you think the character is thinking as she/he goes through the events of the story and his/her part of the plot? How does she/he see those events? How does she/he see the other characters? What does she/he think is happening as the plot progresses? How can you show what he thinks is happening without words? The diary must have 7 entries, (¾ page-1 page typed).
4. **Another Point of View:** Point of view is a key literary device. Rewrite a scene from the perspective of another character. Must be at least two pages 12 point font, typed, and double-spaced in length. You may choose to use a first-person point of view or third-person narration to switch to the perspective of a different character.
5. **Write the Last Scene:** Write a scene that follows the last scene of the book. What happens after the last page? Must be at least two pages 12 point font, typed, double-spaced in length, and maintain the narrative style of the author.
6. **The Fourth Estate:** Create a newspaper that might be issued in the novel's setting (think about appropriate style choices for both time and place of setting). Include two articles about current events from the novel. Remember to answer the journalistic questions: who, what, when, where, and why. Your paper should also include an editorial about a controversial issue facing the people of the community at large, and one article copied (and cited) from a real newspaper of that year. Other ideas to round out your newspaper include: a letter to the editor, advertisements, and an obituary of someone from the novel who died. Articles should have headlines; the paper should have a name. Present in a newspaper format.
7. **College Application.** Create an application that a character you have just read about could write and submit to a college. Use all the information you know about the character and infer and create the rest of it. On the application include Name, Academic Rank in Class, High School Courses Taken and Grades, Extracurricular Activities and Personal Activities, and Work Experience. Choose one of the following prompts to answer in a two-page essay from the character's point of view: What experience, event, or person has had a significant impact on your life? Discuss a situation where you have made a difference. Describe your areas of interest, your personality, and how they relate to why you would like to attend this college.
8. **Life's Little Instruction Book:** Create your own booklet containing:
  - a. Five (or more) pearls of wisdom from the novel.
  - b. Five (or more) pearls of wisdom from wise people in your world. You might consider parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, teachers, coaches, ministers, your dentist, etc. Be sure to explain how they connect to the novel.
  - c. Three (or more) pearls of wisdom from other literary sources, including other novels, books, newspapers, websites, song lyrics, and speeches. Explain how these are connected to the novel.
  - d. Finally, five (or more) pearls of your own. Consider what you have learned thus far in your life. What did you take away from the novel? What advice can you offer to others?

The following options should only be attempted if you have artistic talent.

1. **Graphic Novel:** Recreate the story in a graphic novel format. Choose what you feel are the most important scenes and tell the story of your novel. Your work will be scored equally on your selection of key scenes and how effective you were in capturing the emotion, plot, and characters of each scene. Your graphic novel should include at least seven scenes from the novel, keeping in mind that the pictures can be whatever size you wish. \*You may not do this project for a graphic novel assignment.
2. **Word Collage.** Write the title of the book in the center of a sheet of paper. Then look through magazines for words, phrases, and sentences that illustrate or tell something about your book. As you look, think in terms of the theme, setting, plot line, as well as characters. Work to get fifty such words, phrases, or sentences so the whole sheet of paper will be covered. The visual impact of the collage should tell a potential reader a lot about the book.
3. **Create a Character's Room.** We learn a lot about people by what they keep in their closets, what they have on their walls, and what they select to put in a room. Select a character you know well and create a model bedroom including a his/her closet that would mean a lot to the character. Select 10 features of the room that have particular meaning and write a "tour guide's" script to use while presenting the room.
4. **Photo Album.** Think about the events that happened in your novel. Decide which scenes or pictures from the novel a character would want to remember. Then draw 7 of these "photos" and combine them into an album. For each picture, write about what is being shown and why it is a significant memory for the character. For instance, in *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick (1993, Scholastic), Max would want a picture of himself opening the Christmas present Kevin made for him, a picture of Kevin on his shoulders, and a picture of Kevin bursting in to save him from his brutal father.
5. **Board Game:** Create a board game about the book you read. For example, the game could advance players when they answer a question about the book or move players backward or forward based on problems and solutions from the book.