

# Saint Joseph School

## Summer 2018 Reading Assignments

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### 1. What to Expect in September

#### A. Due Dates

All summer reading assignments (3 Reflections and Dialectical Journal Binder) are due **September 7th**. **No assignments will be accepted after this date. Summer reading will count as your first grade for the first trimester, so make sure you hand in all assignments on time.**

#### B. Test

You will be tested on the novel that has been assigned to your class. This will be your **first test grade for the year**, so you may want to keep notes on your novel.

#### C. Discussion

Be prepared to think and discuss the novels you have read the first week of school.

### 2. Read 3 Novels

#### A. Assigned Reading (2)

Each grade has been assigned one novel to read together. Additionally, each student will select another novel from the attached grade-specific *Summer Reading List*.

#### B. Independent Reading (1)

Select **one** title from *anywhere*. 1) You should choose a novel you have not read. 2) Do not choose based on page numbers. 3) Skim through a couple of pages for each before deciding, noting the vocabulary and writing styles. 4) If you make a choice and realize partway through that it is not an ideal novel for you, switch!

\* You may buy your summer reading novels or check out copies from the school or local library.

### 3. Journal

Write a dialectical journal for all 3 novels that you read. The dialectical journals should be kept in one 1 – 1 ½ inch 3-ring binder. Separate each novel's dialectical journal with a divider. You will use this binder throughout the school year as well, so choose a sturdy one! \*See *Summer Reading List* for grade-specific details.

### 4. Reflect

#### A. Assigned Reading Reflection Paper (2)

Write a reflection for each of the assigned novels that discusses what you believe to be the major themes. Focus on what you think the writer is trying to say about life, people, or the world we live in. How does the writer communicate the theme? Mention specific characters, conflicts, what characters learn, how they change, etc.

#### B. Independent Reading Reflection Paper (1)

Write one reflection for the novel you have chosen to read and answer the following questions: 1) Why did you choose this novel? Provide specific examples of what drew you to it. 2) What is the genre of the novel? Is it a good example of that genre? Use specific examples from the novel. 3) Did the novel meet your expectations? 4) If so, why—what was your favorite part? If not, why not—what would you change? 5) How is your novel relevant to your life or interests? Use specific examples from the novel to illustrate your points.

#### Specifications

Each reflection should be *at the very least* one-page: double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt. font.

Your heading should be written in top left corner as follows:

Name  
Ms. Babiar  
Literature [6, 7, or 8]  
Date

#### \*A Note about Plagiarism

All work that you submit must be your own. You may NOT: Turn in, copy, or alter literature from another writer without proper citations. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. Fortunately, it is easy to avoid if you are careful about giving credit where credit is due. For more information on how to properly cite information, please search "Citations" my blog: [missbabiar.blogspot.com](http://missbabiar.blogspot.com).

## Grade 8 Summer Reading List

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The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho (assigned to all students)

Select **one** novel from the list below.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

Emma by Jane Austen

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

The Prince by Machiavelli

The Girl Who Owned a City by O.T. Nelson

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

### Assignment Checklist

- Dialectical Journal Binder  
Requirement: 25 entries per novel.
- 3 Reflection Papers

### Tips for Studying a Novel

- Annotate, annotate, annotate using pen, highlighter, or Post-its
- Track important quotations as you read in your dialectical journal (don't wait until the end!)
- Create a list of characters
- Document unfamiliar words and define them
- Apply literary terms to the reading such as: plot, theme, conflict, symbol, metaphor
- Make connections to other works (novels/songs/movies), current events, or personal experiences

## Dialectical Journal Instructions

A dialectical journal is a note-taking system that creates a conversation between you and what you are reading. It is a valuable tool that you can use for understanding a piece of literature. You will record quotations from each novel and respond to them. By writing about specific quotations in a text, you make your own meaning of the work, you make the text yours. The passages are there for everyone to read; however, the connections and interpretations that you create will be uniquely yours. This means that there are no “right” answers, so you should take risks and be honest with your responses.

### Directions

1. Obtain a 1 ½ inch 3 ring binder and separate it into 3 sections: one for each novel.
2. Divide your paper into two columns like the model below.
3. You may type or hand-write your journal **neatly**.
4. Record passages from the novel as you read.  
 “All passages are to be written inside quotation marks with the page number like so” (#).  
*I don't understand this because ...*  
*I like/dislike this idea because...*  
*This idea/event seems to be important because...*  
*I think the author is trying to say...*  
*If I were [insert character], at this point I would...*  
*This part doesn't make sense because...*
5. Write your reactions, questions, predictions, connections, or insights about the novel.
6. For each novel, number your Quotation-Responses (1, 2, 3...)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Quotation	Response
<p>You will quote directly from the novel. Remember to use quotation marks and provide the page number.</p> <p>The example below is from <u>Little Women</u> by Louisa May Alcott.</p>	<p>The response should be longer than the quotation (3-5 sentences). Talk about your reactions, questions, predictions, connections, or insights about the quotation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DO NOT rephrase the quote.</b> <b>DO NOT summarize what is happening in the story.</b></p>
<p>1. “I like good strong words that mean something,” replied Jo” (62).</p>	<p>Like the words she uses, Jo is a strong little woman. By using “good strong words” Jo always speaks honestly, even though the words she uses may hurt those around her. Jo doesn’t say things she doesn’t mean—she is precise with her language. I think the words she uses might be a metaphor for her character.</p>

## Dialectical Journal Rubric

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0 = unacceptable      1 = below average      2 = average      3 = good      4 = excellent      5 = superior

### Format

Journal is kept **neatly** in a 1 – 1 ½ inch **binder**

**Title** and **author's name** on first page of each section

Journal is divided into **two columns**: Quotations and Responses

Quotations are **cited** properly

All Quotation-Responses are **numbered**

### Content

Quotations **purposefully** chosen

Responses provide **insight**

Responses make **connections** (personal/other texts/world)

Responses demonstrate **critical thinking**

Responses are unique and **creative**

## Reflection Paper Rubric

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0 = unacceptable    1 = below average    2 = average    3 = good    4 = excellent    5 = superior

### Content

Interesting/Informative **TITLE**

Visibility of **TOPIC**

Engaging **INTRODUCTION**

Clarity of **PURPOSE**

**CONCLUSION** indicates significance of topic

### Format

**CLARITY** of word choice

**UNITY**/focus

Appropriate **TONE**

**Grammar, Usage, Mechanics**

**MLA Format**