

Values Symposium

Summer Reading Assignment 2021

For questions, contact CDH English Teacher, Mr. Steven Tacheny
stacheny@c-dh.org

Reading Choices

Choose **one** title and complete the writing assignment. If you need assistance finding a copy, please ask. There may be selected titles available.

1. *Between Shades of Gray* historical fiction

A novel by Ruta Sepetys written in 2011. It is written at a ninth-tenth grade reading level with 350 pages--a perfect challenge for summer reading for those who enjoy reading and can find inspiration in a WWII novel about the strength of the human spirit and human endurance. The story centers around 15-year-old Lina who, along with her mother and brother, are deported to Siberia during the Holocaust and face relentless and unimaginable challenges.
2. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* fiction: fantasy

by L. Frank Baum, was first published in 1900. This is not a hard read, but it is over 250 pages long. Maybe you have seen the 1939 movie of this fantasy fiction story with Judy Garland and can recall the dazzling storyline of the Kansas farm girl Dorothy Gale on a wild adventure over the rainbow through the world of Oz. However, you've got to read the original to see just how different it is from the movie. Find out what color Dorothy's slippers really were. The book is not difficult to read because, even though the original text has 260 pages, there are many wonderful sketches! The story is fun, and it provides a nice escape for summer daydreams. The book can be read in full here:
https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Wonderful_Wizard_of_Oz/qbV65PabTEYC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover
3. *We Were Liars* fiction: psychological thriller

This book by E.Lockhard is 256 pages, for grades 9 and up. Cadence Sinclair Easton comes from an old-money family, headed by a patriarch who owns a private island off of Cape Cod. Each summer, the extended family gathers at the various houses on the island, and Cadence, her cousins Johnny and Mirren, and friend Gat (the four "liars"), have been inseparable since age eight. During their fifteenth summer however, Cadence suffers a mysterious accident. She spends the next two years—and the course of the book—in a haze of amnesia, debilitating migraines, and painkillers, trying to piece together just what happened. Lockhart writes in a somewhat sparse style filled with metaphor and jumps from past to present and back again—rather fitting for a main character struggling with a sudden and unexplainable life change. The story, while lightly touching on issues of class and race, more fully focuses on dysfunctional family drama, a heart-wrenching romance between Cadence and Gat, and, ultimately, the suspense of what happened during that fateful summer. The ending is a stunner that will haunt readers for a long time to come.

4. *Charlotte's Web*

fiction

This E.B. White's 1952 classic has 192 pages, and though it seems like just a children's book, there is much more to this story. A runt (smallest) pig who was almost killed, is saved both by a girl and then a spider. This is a story of incredible relationships and views on living a meaningful life, especially if you appreciate animals and have a sense of humor. E.B White is a celebrated American essayist and reading this story also would open the door to his other works.

5. *Touching Spirit Bear*

fiction

This 240-page book by Ben Mikaelson was first published in 2001. It is about a Minneapolis boy named Cole Matthews whose uncontrollable rage and anger land him in trouble with the law after he severely injures a fellow student. Rather than go to prison, Cole elects to be banished to a remote Alaskan island for one year as part of Circle Justice, a Native American tradition that provides healing for criminal behavior. While there, he encounters a mysterious bear who leaves him mauled and alone. As he struggles to survive, he looks back upon his life and the decisions that landed him in his current predicament. He evaluates his anger, his abusive parents, and his helpless victim as he gets to the roots of his violent ways This book tailors to grades 8 and up. If you would like to pick up a school copy, there are some available in the main office to borrow (come during school office hours.) It is available for less than \$4 in eBook versions and can be found for \$5 or less online and at used book sellers. (FYI - There is a sequel if this one leaves you wanting more).

https://books.google.com/books/about/Touching_Spirit_Bear.html?id=KmyagpEHznAC

6. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*

non-fiction

Ibram X. Kendi won a National Book Award for his book *Stamped from the Beginning*. In this 248-page remix published in 2020, authors Jason Reynolds and Ibram Kendi tailor the complex development of racial constructs for readers ages 12 and up. In these pages, the authors explore racism in the United States, as well as efforts to work toward an antiracist future. Although the book looks at racism from a historical viewpoint, the emphasis is on understanding how we got to the here and now, and more importantly how we work toward a better, more equitable place moving forward. The book can be purchased for less than \$15 at local bookstores or through online sites. It is also available for download at:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54823cade4b0090d4b36f575/t/5ef38a5df767b55175e7731b/1593018979197/Stamped+-+Racism%2C+Antiracism%2C+and+You.pdf>

7. *Long Way Down*

fiction

A 2019 novel by Jason Reynolds with 320 pages. This electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes Will to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. Revenge. That's what Will's after, with a gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets off that elevator. 2019 Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, this book is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as can only be told by Jason Reynolds.

Writing Assignment

1. As you read the book you choose from the list, note and keep track of 5 quotes you like, or that strike you, for whatever reason. Jot down the page numbers where the quotes are found.
2. Type up the 5 quotes, in the sequential order as they appear in the book. Make sure to cite the author's name and page number with each quote. See the example below.
3. After you type up the quote, and triple check it for accuracy, explain in 3-8 sentences why you chose this particular quote. Why is it meaningful for you? Why is it important to the book's story or content?
4. Do your best to spread the quotes out over the entirety of the book, not just from the first two chapters.

Example Quote: use this for formatting.

1. "What he had seen, he knew, might be a reflection, a piece of flat shell accidentally drifted in or a complete illusion. In this Gulf of uncertain light there were more illusions than realities" (Steinbeck 19).

Note the author of the quote is inside the parentheses along with the page number with no additional punctuation except for the period outside the second parenthesis.

Overall Formatting:

Please type your quotes if you can (handwriting is okay if you don't have access to typing). Double space. Use Times New Roman 12-point font and put this at the top left corner of your paper as your heading. Put the title of the book in *italics*, and the author, centered for your title.

Your Name

Values

August 31, 2021

We Were Liars by E. Lockhard

Getting Ready for your First Day of Ninth Grade:

Review your book so you can talk about it confidently with another student in the class. Have your 5-quote assignment ready for turn-in on the first day of school, August 30th.