

## Rising 9th Grade Language Arts Summer Reading and Essay Assignment

Welcome to 9th Grade Language Arts. I'm looking forward to a great school year with you! Below you will find your Summer Reading Assignments. This work is due the first day of the new school year. Late work will not be accepted. Please follow all instructions and be mindful of presentation; each page should be typed or neatly written in blue or black ink. This assignment will be a significant grade. Make sure your name and the title of the text is clearly printed on each sheet. Hard copies only will be accepted.

Texts (You must read both texts. We will be discussing them during the first week of school):

- The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

\*\*\* If you have already read To Kill a Mockingbird, please read The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

### Assignment 1 (You must complete this assignment for both texts):

Character List: For each text, you will keep a list of major characters including a thorough description and a quote from the text that you feel represents them. For each text, you should have a **MINIMUM of six characters**. Be sure to explain **WHY** the quote is representative of the character. Include the page number where you found the quote. Follow the format below to complete this portion of the assignment:

Character	Description	Quote
Hermione Granger	Hermione Granger is a Muggle-born student at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. She befriends the main protagonist, Harry Potter, and Ron Weasley. Hermione is extremely intelligent and can often be found reading or consulting a book. She assists Harry in many of the challenges he faces over the course of the book by using her intelligence to work out solutions and provide the information Harry needs to overcome obstacles. Hermione	<p>“Books! And cleverness! There are more important things — friendship and bravery and — oh Harry — be careful!” (pg 288).</p> <p>This quote demonstrates that Hermione is a deeply caring individual who values friendship. Though Hermione is known for her love of reading and studying, here she tells Harry that she knows other things have more meaning. She wants Harry to know that she recognizes how brave and selfless he is being by taking on</p>

	is often referred to as “the brightest witch of her age.”	Voldemort and putting the needs of others before himself.
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**Assignment 2 (You must complete this assignment for both texts):**

Written Response: For each text, choose ONE of the long response options. You will write a minimum of one full page for EACH response. This should be single spaced and either typed or written neatly in black or blue ink.

1) The Glass Menagerie:

Option 1: Discuss the symbolism of the glass menagerie. What does it represent? Does it represent the same thing throughout the play, or does it change? Use at least three direct quotes from the text to support your response.

Option 2: What is the effect of the images and phrases that appear on the screen throughout the play? Do they enhance or detract from the mood of what is occurring onstage? Use at least three direct quotes from the text to support your response.

Option 3: Explore the theme of illusion versus reality. How does the author illustrate this theme? Why is this theme important? Use at least three direct quotes from the text to support your response.

2) To Kill a Mockingbird:

Option 1: Discuss the symbolism of the mockingbird. What does it represent? Who could it represent? Use at least three direct quotes from the text to support your response.

Option 2: Discuss the theme of courage throughout the novel. How do different characters show courage? Use at least three direct quotes from the text to support your response.

Option 3: Analyze the relationship between Boo Radley and the children. How does this relationship change throughout the book? Use at least three direct quotes from the text to support your response.

\*\*\*3) The Book Thief:

Option 1: Why do you believe the author chose Death as the narrator? Is Death a trustworthy narrator? Why or why not? Be sure to quote the text in your response.

Option 2: Explain how the novel addresses the complicated ideas of justice and judgement. Which characters do you view as just or unjust, and why? Which events and/or details contribute to your perception? Be sure to quote the text in your response.

Option 3: Abandonment is a key theme in this novel. The reader knows Liesel feels abandoned by her mother and the death of her brother. How does Liesel equate love with abandonment? Explain whether you believe she was abandoned due to unfortunate circumstances or because those who left her truly didn't love her anymore. Be sure to quote the text in your response.