



**San Diego Jewish Academy
High School Humanities 2012
Summer Reading Guidelines
English 9, 10 and Topics in English and History**

“My education was the liberty I had to read indiscriminately and all the time, with my eyes hanging out.” —Dylan Thomas

Please read, annotate, or prepare materials as described below for your course. Bring the book or materials to the first course meeting on August 22-23, 2012.

In addition, read books of your choice (fiction or non-fiction) for sheer pleasure; see suggested titles at the American Library Association websites listed on page two. Perhaps, you could create a book club, share with a friend, engage in conversations about your reading. Enjoy stories and language! Parents, we encourage you to read and discuss with your student.

English 9: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

For context, prior to reading, please watch and listen to stories from survivors of the Great Depression overlaid with powerful pictures from that era in this National Archives Southeast Region presentation at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpfY8kh5IUw>

If this link does not work in your browser, go to Google, enter 'National Archives Southeast Region Great Depression,' and scroll down to the YouTube video. It's titled, "Stories from the Great Depression--YouTube." The video with the interviews and pictures is 27 minutes, 47 seconds.

English 10: *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak

Topics in English: Public Speaking, Watch Martin Luther King's "I've been to the mountaintop" speech: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOIjLDMWec&feature=related>
In a typed MLA document, respond to the following: What does he ask his audience to do? How does he do it? When does the audience most reply to King? (What is he doing? saying?) Is it effective or ineffective when he uses repetition in his speech, i.e., "If I had sneezed..."? Please explain. Find another speech—any speech longer than three minutes—in which the speaker wants the audience to do something. Watch that speech, and in addition to your analysis of the Mountaintop speech, briefly explain this speech you've found. Who is speaking? What is happening during that time period? What does the speaker want the audience to do? Why is the speaker rousingly successful or disastrously useless? You must also provide the hyperlink to the speech.

Topics in English: Mr. Wood's Favorite Books, *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie

Topics in History: Election 2012, Monitor the 2012 Presidential Election. Throughout the summer, try to regularly check in with the ongoing election coverage. As you follow the latest updates, take note of what is happening at the local, state, and federal levels.

- **Option 1: Track the Candidates.**

On Thursday, August 23, 2012, I will collect a typed, MLA format, **one-two page, double-spaced summary** of your summer findings. The following prompts are listed below to give you some ideas. However, you are free to go beyond the topics listed here.

- Which presidential candidate seems to have had more momentum over the summer?
- Entering the Fall election season, which candidate do you expect to win on November 6th? How strongly do you feel about this prediction? What informs your analysis?
- Do you notice any swing states emerging? (For instance, could the presidential race come down to Florida, as it did in 2000? In 2012, might a state like Colorado or Ohio decide the election?)

- **Option 2: Get Involved! (Summer Journal)**

- Some of you may find yourselves volunteering or working for any number of local or national candidates and ballot measures this summer. Great! Since you will be actively participating in the process, it would be great to share your insight with the rest of the class. To do this, I would like you to keep a journal or blog chronicling your experience. This may involve a daily/weekly writing entry to recount your responsibilities and observations, but may also include pictures, videos, artifacts, and anything else you may access.

AP Students

If you are enrolled in *any* AP course next fall, you should check the SDJA website to see if the faculty member teaching the course is requiring a summer assignment.

If you would like some ideas for what to read, we would suggest consulting the following websites:

- "Fiction Outstanding Books for the College Bound Titles." American Library Association. <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/obcb/fiction.html>
- "Non-fiction Outstanding Books for the College Bound Titles." American Library Association. <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/outstandingbooks/nonfictionoutstanding.htm>
- "Booklists & Book Awards." American Library Association. <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/>

Questions?

If you still have questions after reading this handout, please write an email to Ms. McKinstry at mmckinstry@sdja.com. She will check email periodically throughout the summer. Students, we encourage you to advocate for yourself and ask questions of teachers in a timely manner. Finding an answer to a question is an integral skill. Our first day back is August 22. We look forward to a great year.