

## Semester 1 Independent Reading Project "The Journey" & "Conflicts and Consequences"

### Learning Targets:

1. I will explore additional fiction and nonfiction novels reflecting the themes we've discussed in first semester in order to complement class readings, while gaining exposure to new authors and texts.
2. I will compare and contrast novels with similar themes, structure, tone, purpose, and style.
3. I will use historical fiction and/or nonfiction to build my framework of understanding regarding major historical events.
4. I will strengthen my reading, writing, discussion, and communication skills by preparing and presenting a short speech to share my reading experience with an audience.

**Steps:** During this project, we will read books that represent the themes of first and second quarter: "The Journey" and "Conflicts and Consequences" – both reflective of our yearly exploration of "Who Am I?"

1. Select TWO books in which you have interest from the attached list, or suggest books of your own. You must have any selections that are not on the list approved by Dr. Hollingsworth within the next week in order to qualify. Any deviations from this selection must be re-approved. You may email for permission as well; print the email and attach to this sheet.

Proposed book title: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher approval: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Remember – book selection is a decision governed by you and your parents – make sure you are in agreement regarding content, language, level of difficulty, etc. Many of these books suggest emotionally challenging ideas and imagery, so please be in communication with parents/teachers about your specific family-oriented needs and values).*

2. **Complete the reading of the books** by \_\_\_\_\_. This is an assessment grade for Quarter 2, and you will not have time/opportunity to redo, as the quarter will end, so be prepared and on time! ☺
3. **Write your "mini-speech"** according to the instructions provided in class (and on this sheet!). Practice, practice, practice! **Memorize!** Come to class on presentation day with your notecards and professional attire.

## Mini-Speech

This communication assessment consists of two parts: a mini-speech and a Q & A session. Each student will **write, memorize, and deliver** a **2-3 minute** “mini-speech” with a brief introduction, body, and conclusion. Then, members of your small group will ask you questions about your books and the speech you gave. Use the following guide to structure your mini-speech, which is very similar to a (short) 3-paragraph essay.

**Introduction:** Create an engaging hook; Reveal your books’ titles and authors; Create a thesis that describes the goals of your speech

**Body:** Using summary, describe a) the plot of the texts (briefly) b) the significant theme(s) from the texts, c) how these two texts relate to one another in one significant way

**Conclusion:** Review your main points and leave the audience with an intriguing, analytical question(s) at the close of your speech

**Make sure it is very evident you read both books.**

You will **turn in one typed copy of your mini speech** upon delivery (no impromptu speeches!), and **you must deliver from (almost) memory or with notecards used sparingly.** No full scripts allowed.

All students will be graded on their mini speeches, their ability to effectively answer questions in the Q & A, and their audience/participation/listening behavior.

## BOOK CHOICES

There are literally hundreds of possible books that could qualify for this project. The titles included below are based on recommended texts from the PSD reading list for 7-9<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as from the public library and Scholastic Books. Remember – book selection is a decision governed by you and your parents – make sure you are in agreement regarding content, language, level of difficulty, etc.

(\*) denotes limited number of books that Dr. Hollingsworth has available for check out

### **Fiction Texts: “The Journey”**

*Crazy* by Han Nolan

*Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine

*If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period* by Gennifer Choldenko

*Stolen* by Lucy Christopher

*Born Blue* by Han Nolan

\**Downriver* by Will Hobbs

*Give Me Liberty* by L.M. Elliot (historical fiction)

*Cast Two Shadows*

*The Secret of Sarah Revere* by Ann Rinaldi

*Letters to a Young Poet* by Rilke

*Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons* by Ann Rinaldi

*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*After Ever After* by Jordan Sonnenblick

*The Light in the Forest* by Conrad Richter

*What the Moon Saw* by Laura Resau

\**Messenger* by Lois Lowry

\**The Pigman* by Paul Zindel

*Siddhartha* by Hesse

*The Life of Pi* by Martell

### **“Classic” and Non-Fiction Texts: “The Journey”**

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

*Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss

*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell

*House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

*Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

*Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger (parent permission advised)

*Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischmann

*The Great Wide Sea* by M.H. Herlong

*Mysterious Island* by Jules Verne

*Captain's Courageous* by Rudyard Kipling

*O Pioneers* by Willa Cather

*Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World has Never Seen*, by McDougall

*Into the Wild* by Krakauer

*The Road Not Taken and Other Poems* by Frost

### **Fiction Texts: “Conflicts and Challenges”**

\**The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*  
*Dawn*

\**The Book Thief*

*Good Night, Maman*

*Escaping into the Night*

*Number the Stars*

*The Devil's Arithmetic*

*The Pianist*

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

*The Upstairs Room*

*I Never Saw Another Butterfly*

\**Summer of My German Soldier*

*My Family for the War*

*Is it Night or Day?*

*Once*

*All But My Life*

*Malka*

*The Man from the Other Side*

*Ashes*

*The Auslander*

*The Berlin Boxing Club*

*Daniel, Half-Human: The Nazis come to Power*

*Waiting for Anya*

**Non-fiction Texts: "Conflicts and Consequences"**

*\*The Diary of Anne Frank*

*The Lost Childhood: A World War II Memoir*

*Auschwitz (by Clive Lawton)*

*Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust*

*Children of the Slaughter: Young People of the Holocaust*

*Heroes of the Holocaust (by Ted Gottfried)*

*My Lucky Star (by Zdenka Fantlova)*

*After the Holocaust (by Howard Greenfeld)*

*Survival and Resistance (by Patricia Levy)*

*Saving Children from the Holocaust*

*Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust*

*Terezin: Voices from the Holocaust*

*Requiem: Poems from the Terezin Ghetto*

*Storming the Tulips*

*Surviving the Angel of Death: The Story of a Mengele twin in Auschwitz*

*Viktor Frankl: A Life Worth Living*

*I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree: A Memoir of a Schindler's List Survivor*

*Inge: A Girl's Journey Through Nazi Europe*