

The Calverton School

Upper School
2021 - 2022
Summer Reading Grade 9, English 1

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1. IXL GRADE 8 LEVEL ONLY:

- Log into your IXL account for **GRADE 8 (DO NOT COMPLETE ANY WORK IN GRADE 9)**
- You can choose those skills in which you feel you could use the most practice.
- **DO NOT** work on exercises that your class has already completed this year
- You must work on an exercise until you achieve a score of **80 or BETTER to receive credit**
- **You decide how many** exercises to complete, and your work will be graded accordingly:
 - 20 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive an A+/100
 - 15 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive B+
 - 10 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive C+
 - 5 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive D+
 - Fewer than 5 exercises completed at 80% or better will receive INCOMPLETE

2. Please order *ONE of the following Fiction or Dramatic works* from MBS as soon as you can. These titles will be available June 1 this year, and you can contact MBS to place your order through The Calverton School website:

The Book Thief, Markus Zusak

The Things they Carried, Tim O' Brien

The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

PICK 1 FROM THIS GROUP

3. Please order *ONE of the following Non Fiction works* from MBS as soon as you can. These titles will be available June 1 this year, and you can contact MBS to place your order through The Calverton School website:

Bridge of Spies, Giles Whittell

The Bookseller of Kabul, Asne Seierstad

PICK 1 FROM THIS GROUP

4. Please read both of your chosen works carefully; your first writing assignment in English reflects on these works, so please bring your book to class during the first week of school.

- You must EITHER close read/annotate OR keep a reader's journal for your two books. If you would prefer, you can annotate one and keep a journal for the other.

- If you opt for a reader's journal, here are some guidelines: (next page)

- **Pick a journal.** You may even use a Sketch Book, without lines. I would prefer that you DO NOT keep your journal online.
- **Include an entry header.** Dating the entries is important. Each time you sit down to read, make an entry. Entries do not need to be all the same length or the same type.
- **Make this journal creative:** keep it going, make it fun, really care about it. That will make it more interesting to share when classes start again. **If you are artistic,** you may draw or paint something that caught your imagination; **if you are a poet or a songwriter,** you can write poems or song lyrics about something that happened or about a character or place. **If you are more of a geography person,** you can make a map, showing where an event took place, or where the character has travelled to or from. You can keep adding to this map in sections as you go along. **If you are more mathematical,** you might calculate out the miles he has travelled and try to find these real places on the map; or you can make a chart of his adventures from place to place.
- **OR keep a more traditional reader's journal: you may follow any of the suggestions below:**
 - **Personal thoughts and reactions:** Try not to censure your reactions to the text but to include more than "I liked (or hated)" type of statements. Be reflective; think about why you may be responding the way you are. Leave room for recording later reflections on the same topic/event/character. One way to do this is to take notes on the left-hand page of notebook and reserve the right-hand page for later additions, comments, questions, and so on.

- **Comments and questions on plot, narrative structure, point of view, characterization, or setting:** Refer to any of the following kinds of questions to help guide your responses:
 - **Plot:** What is the main conflict? What are the minor conflicts? How are all the conflicts related? What causes the conflicts? Where does the climax occur, if there is one? Why? How is the main conflict resolved? Which conflicts go unresolved?
 - **Narrative Structure:** How does the story move? What kind of narrative device is employed to move the plot? That is, are the characters on a journey through geographic space? Does the narrative move chronologically? etc. How does this structure seem to reflect or comment on other elements (i.e. characters and themes) in the text?
 - **Point of view:** Who tells the story? Can you trust the narrator to tell you the truth about events, characters, and settings of the story? Why has the author chosen this point of view? What effects does it have on other elements of the story?
 - **Characterization:** How are the characters portrayed? Are they flat, round, dynamic, static? Do they change? How and why do they change? What do they learn? What problems do they have? Do they have traits that contradict one another and therefore cause internal conflicts? Do they experience epiphanies? How or what? How do they relate to each other? Etc.
 - **Setting:** Where does the action take place? (Think not only about geographic location but also physical space: indoors, outdoors, small rooms, palatial homes, etc.) What does it look like, sound like, feel like? What relationship does place have to characterization, the plot, themes, and the narrative structure? At what period in history does the action take place?
 - **Note page numbers.** Write about and record favorite or interesting quotes in your journal and write down the page number and maybe even paragraph number where you found the excerpt.
 - **Final impact of the story.** At the end of the book, take some time to record the overall impact the story had on you. Did the story flow well and keep you

riveted in the characters' world until the very end? Or, did it feel stilted and contrived? What impact did the characters have, if any, on you personally? Strong characters can make lasting impressions on readers' behaviors and thought processes. Write down whether the characters made this type of impression on you.

5. **If you choose to close read, the following are some suggestions.** You **DO NOT** need to attend to all of the details mentioned here. Use this as a guide:

- **Underlining or highlighting in the text anything that is “noteworthy”, such as:**
 - words, phrases, sentences or (rarely) whole passages that the student finds to be of particular beauty, interest, or importance
 - unfamiliar vocabulary words to be looked up in the dictionary
 - passages that the student wishes to bring up in class discussion
 - the introduction of characters and character description
 - important events
 - examples of literary techniques and terms
 - examples of an author's individual style
- **Marginal Notes – reminders as to why a passage was underlined**
 - new discovery such as “setting is Gulf Stream/Cuba” or “boarding school”
 - short phrase referring to an important event such as “Pudge gets nickname”
 - reference to literary terms such as “foreshadowing, metaphor, and allusion”
 - comparison to another work such as “contrast with Ponyboy in *The Outsiders*”
 - a thematic reference such as “man against nature” or “desire for individuality”
 - a repeated usage like “eye motif” or “animal imagery”
 - change in narrative voice