

## Ninth Grade Independent Reading Assignment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Reading Part:** You must read an appropriate book of your choice outside of class.

**The Writing Part:** You are expected to complete eight logs for your novel (seven from the regular selections and one closing log). From the list of ten regular selections, you must choose any seven of your choice. On the day the seven regular journal logs are due, you will have to choose one of the three closing logs to round out your eight novel logs. Each log is 25 points making the assignment worth a total of 200 points.

**The seven journals will be due on:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Regular Selections (Choose 7...no repeats):

**1. Putting Yourself in a Character's Shoes:** If I were \_\_\_\_\_ (character) at this point, I would... Give specific actions you would take and provide sound reasoning for those actions.

**2. Advice Column:** Describe one of the problems faced by a character and write advice for him/her. You may choose to be serious or humorous. Use the letter format common to newspaper advice columns where the person with the problem writes for advice and the writer writes back. Often, the person seeking advice "disguises" his or her name with a descriptive name associated with the problem.

**3. Alternative Ending:** Write an alternative ending for the book you read. Try to maintain consistency with the author's style. You must actually write the ending and not simply describe it.

**4. Which Character Is Coming to Dinner?** Invite one of the characters in your book to dinner, explaining why you chose that character above the others. Next, write a note to your mother telling her that you have invited someone to dinner. Describe the person to her; include a few dos and don'ts for her to follow so that your guest will feel at home.

**5. Transporting a Character:** Lift a character out of the book you are reading and drop him or her down in our school. Is the character a student, teacher, custodian, secretary, nurse, principal, cafeteria employee, etc.? Don't change the character's personality-just show what might happen if he or she became one of us.

**6. Fortune Cookies:** You are dining at a Chinese restaurant with 5 characters from the novel you read. On that particular night, the fortune cookies are amazingly appropriate. Tell what each fortune cookie said and why it was especially fitting to the character who received it. Don't forget to include yourself.

**7. Casting the Movie Version:** You are the director in charge of filming the novel. How will you cast it? Name specific actors for the roles. How will you handle the camera? What do you have in mind for setting and sound? How will you use color? Why?

**8. Time Capsule:** Make a time capsule for the book you read. Tell what each character would put in and why. Also, include items that relate to the theme, plot, and setting. Explain those as well. You should write a few sentences for each item in the time capsule. You need at least ten items included in your time capsule.

**9. Gift Giving:** Think of five gifts that would be perfect to give to the main character. They can be tangible or intangible, but should be things that he/she would really want or use. Explain why you chose each gift.

**10. Trial Summary:** Pretend you are putting one of the characters from the book on trial. The character may not have committed any real crime, but can be on trial for being irresponsible, selfish, inconsiderate, etc. Be sure to include the following: Name of the accused, crime evidence, and suggested punishment. Be sure to summarize the trial.

### **Closing Logs (Choose 1...to be completed in class):**

**1. Letter to the Author:** Write a letter to the author posing questions about the book. Include at least ten questions. Be sure to start your letter with a greeting and some information about yourself and your reaction to the book.

**2. Who Should Read This Book?** Write at least two paragraphs on this topic: Why \_\_\_\_\_ should (or should not) read this book. Give good reasons! Choose a specific person you know for this log.

**3. Literary Analysis and Positive Review:** Using complete sentences and paragraphs (at least 3), explain why this is a good book. Include literary information such as writing techniques (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions), plot structure, characterization, symbolism, setting, imagery, and so on. Explain your personal interaction with the book or the impact this book had on your life. Finally, describe why you think others should read this book.