

# **RIISING ACCELERATED/GIFTED 9TH GRADE SUMMER READING PROJECT**

**DULUTH HIGH SCHOOL**

**SUMMER 2019**

*Due date: Tuesday, August 20th*

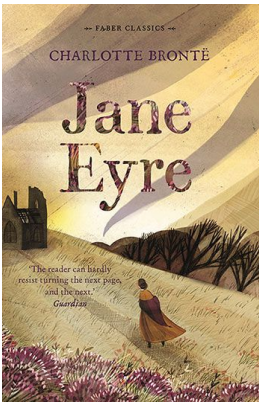
In order to prepare you for our study of literature, I would like for you to complete the following assignment. Read through the directions carefully and choose your novel wisely. We will refer to these novels throughout the year and use them in our discussion of other literature.

**The assignment is due by Tuesday, August 20th and will be preceded by a literature circle exercise and end with a test over the novel. The assignment is mandatory and will count as part of the first semester's grade.**

First things first, choose **ONE** book from the options below to complete your assignment.

## **SUMMER READING BOOK OPTIONS**

(Summaries provided by goodreads.com)



### **Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë**

Orphaned as a child, Jane has felt an outcast her whole young life. Her courage is tested once again when she arrives at Thornfield Hall, where she has been hired by the brooding, proud Edward Rochester to care for his ward Adèle. Jane finds herself drawn to his troubled yet kind spirit. She falls in love. Hard.

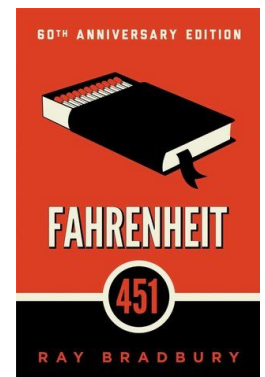
But there is a terrifying secret inside the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall. What is Rochester hiding from Jane? Will Jane be left heartbroken and exiled once again?

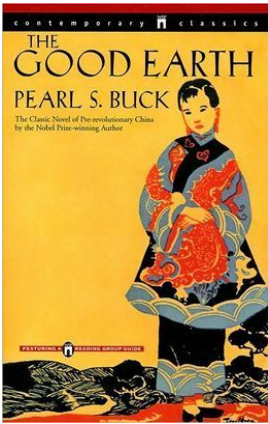
### **Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury**

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden.

Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television 'family'. But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people did not live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television.

When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.





### **The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck**

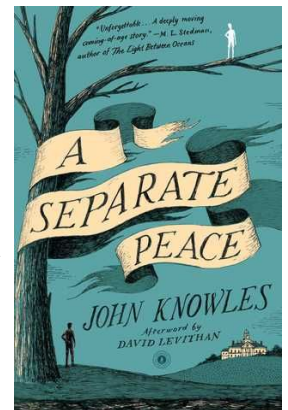
This story tells the poignant tale of a Chinese farmer and his family in old agrarian China. The humble Wang Lung glories in the soil he works, nurturing the land as it nurtures him and his family. Nearby, the nobles of the House of Hwang consider themselves above the land and its workers; but they will soon meet their own downfall.

Hard times come upon Wang Lung and his family when flood and drought force them to seek work in the city. The working people riot, breaking into the homes of the rich and forcing them to flee. When Wang Lung shows mercy to one noble and is rewarded, he begins to rise in the world, even as the House of Hwang falls.

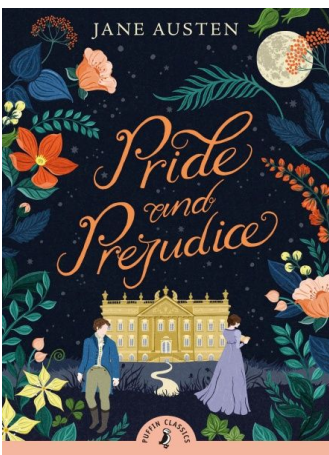
### **A Separate Peace by John Knowles**

An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to the second world war.

Set at a boys boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.



### **Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen**



"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." So begins *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen's classic novel of manners and mores in early-nineteenth-century England.

As the Bennets prepare their five grown daughters to enter into society, each shows personality traits that illuminate their future prospects as wives. Jane, the oldest, is the most demure and traditional, and Lydia, the youngest, the most headstrong and impulsive. Attention centers on haughty second-born Elizabeth, and her blossoming relationship with the dashing but aloof Fitzwilliam Darcy. Adversaries at first in the endless rounds of balls, parties, and social gatherings, their already tense relationship soon grows complicated with the arrival of the affable, yet mysterious, Mr. Wickham.

### **Lord of the Flies by William Golding**

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this far from civilization the boys can do anything they want. Anything. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued. Labeled a parable, an allegory, a myth, a morality tale, a parody, a political treatise, even a vision of the apocalypse, *Lord of the Flies* is perhaps our most memorable novel about "the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart."



# PROJECT INFORMATION

**STEP 1A:** Keep a reading log. Choose one of the major characters to follow throughout the book, and record any descriptions, actions, or statements made about or by the character in a three-column journal (example set up below). Write down the passage, the page on which the passage can be found, and an explanation or comment about the citation. Especially pay attention to the change the character undergoes throughout the course of the novel. **Your log should contain a minimum of ten entries** and may be handwritten or typed. Be sure to choose entries from *throughout* the novel, not just from the first part of the book.

Passage	Pg. #	Response
<p>“Jem threw open the gate and sped to the side of the house, slapped it with his palm and ran back past us, not waiting to see if his foray was successful. Dill and I followed on his heels. Safely on our porch, panting and out of breath, we looked back.</p> <p>The old house was the same, droopy and sick, but as we stared down the street we thought we saw an inside shutter move. Flick. A tiny, almost invisible movement, and the house was still.”</p>	18-19	After Jem touches the Radley house, the children see movement inside the house. I think this is Boo Radley, which means that he’s been watching the children playing outside of his house. It seems to indicate that Boo is interested in the children. The question then arises: is he the “malevolent phantom” that people claim he is or is Boo just lonely?

**STEP 1B:** Next, write a 1-page response in which you discuss whether or not your character changes from the beginning to the end of the novel. Be sure to analyze both the ways in which they do (or don’t) change and the significance of this change (or lack thereof) in your character. Include direct quotes from your reading log in your response.

**STEP 2:** Identify the different conflicts (man vs. \_\_\_) presented in the novel, explain the situations in detail, and discuss the resolution of these conflicts. These conflicts include: man vs. self, man vs. man, man vs. society, and man vs. nature. Man vs. nature may not be present in all novels, and several of the other types may exist in various ways. Write down as many as you can identify. Be sure to provide specific details in your discussion.

**STEP 3:** Describe the setting of the novel and explain its significance to the plot and the characters. Go into detail about not just the time period and main setting, but the smaller settings of your novel as well. Furthermore, write about the impact that the setting has on the novel’s plot and characters. For example, if your book is set on an unknown island, consider how that setting is significant in propelling the conflicts that occur in the book. In summary, write *in detail* about the setting; two or three sentences will be insufficient.

**STEP 4:** Choose a character, other than the protagonist, from your novel and write a narrative in their perspective. The narrative can be in the style of a journal/diary entry or letter or it could simply shift focus to another character’s experience with the same event(s) from the novel. Your narrative should be at least a page and include imagery, figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, et cetera), and other literary devices like foreshadowing, flashback, suspense, et cetera.

**STEP 5:** Finally, create an 8”x 11” cover for the book. Your cover should reflect different aspects of the novel, such as theme, characters, and/or setting. The cover can be a drawing, a computer-generated paper, a collage, or any other creative type of interpretation.

You will be asked to share this work with group members who have also read your novel. Note: do not merely use pictures from a movie adaptation of the novel. Be original!

**On Monday, August 19th, we will form literature circles**, one for each book, and you will be asked to discuss the book with others in your class who chose the same selection. This exercise will give you an opportunity to review the novel before the test and also introduce you to an activity that we will participate in throughout the year.

In addition to submitting this assignment **on Tuesday, August 20th, you will also have a test over the novel** to assess your understanding of the reading on the same day.

See you in August!

Mrs. Tull

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