

Summer Reading and Writing Assignment *Rising 9th*

The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom

You will need to purchase a copy of one of this book to read and annotate over the summer. The annotation assignment is due on the first day of school (August 1st). You will need to bring your annotated book with you every day for the first week of class. We will be writing essays in class.

As you read, look through your book and annotate evidence for the following topics/questions in your copy *The Time Keeper*:

Topic 1: **MORALITY** – Do the characters live within any moral constraints or boundaries? Does the book give any indications of the basis for this morality? (In other words, if the characters’ behavior is moral, then *why* is it moral?) Are the boundaries portrayed in a negative and destructive light or are they seen as positive and healthy? Which, if any, of the characters demonstrate Christian values? How?

Topic 2: **CONSEQUENCES** – Are there consequences for characters who break these moral boundaries? Is this a universe where justice is performed? By whom? How? Is this justice biblical? Find bible scriptures to support your answer.

Topic 3: **PERSPECTIVE** – How does this novel connect to a Christian worldview: a) human nature being both dignified and fallen, b) the possibility of redemption, and c) the possibility of grace and generosity? How does the author develop these themes?

Topic 4: **AGENDAS** – Which worldviews does the book deliberately advocate and/or undermine and call into question? What is the overall “moral of the story”? Find and be prepared to give textual evidence to support this moral.

Final papers (after writing and workshopping in class) will be assessed by a formal writing rubric for conventions and content, including text support.