

Oak Park High School Back to School Reading 2014



Purpose and Guidelines: This summer we are asking all Oak Park students grade 9-12 to engage in a back to school reading experience. Completing this read will ensure that you are adequately prepared to demonstrate proficiency on the argumentative diagnostic that all students will be taking in the fall of 2014. This experience will also assist you by giving you prior knowledge in the genre you will be studying in your Independent Reading Unit in the fall. Of course the greatest advantage is that students who read not only become better readers, but better writers as well and both skills are essential to being a successful student.

Assignment: We are asking that you read the book designated by your grade level below. Books may be borrowed from the library or purchased at a bookstore. Online booksellers such as Amazon and betterworldbook.com are often fantastic places to find discounted/used books. In instances of financial hardship, students should contact the school for the book.

9th Grade: *Twisted* by Laurie Halse Anderson

10th Grade: *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

11th Grade: *The Heart and the Fist* by Eric Greitens

12th Grade: *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream* by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins and Rameck Hunt

Assignment:

Overall students will need to:

- **Read** their book.
- Complete the **journal activities**.
- Provide **written responses** to the prompts.

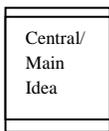
Reading: Set a schedule for yourself to make certain you are done reading in time. As you read, annotate in a way that will assist you in completing your journal assignments. Use sticky notes or write in the book if it belongs to you.

Journal Activities: These activities should be completed in either a composition or spiral bound notebook. For **every chapter** in the book you will be asked to:

Pause for the Cause: As you read and come across words that you are unfamiliar with, write them down and define them.

What questions do you have?: There may be times that you become confused. That is part of being a reader! Write down your questions, whether they are based on content or predictions.

Tracking a Claim: As you read each chapter, identify the central/main idea of that chapter. Also, use multiple pieces of evidence to support your central/main idea; these could be direct quotes or paraphrases. For example, you could set up your page like this-



1.) Evidence

2.) Evidence

Written Response: After you are done reading, you will choose **2** of the following prompts to respond to in at least a paragraph of your best writing:

- 1.) Did you enjoy the book? What would you tell someone about the book? Are there connections you can make between this book and your own life? How have you changed after/while reading this book?
- 2.) Do you like the various characters, dislike them, respect or sympathize with them, or understand their motivation? Why?
- 3.) Does the protagonist grow as a person during the course of the story? Does he/she gain strength from, or get defeated by, adversity? Does he/she become more or less ethical? Idealistic? Disillusioned? Comfortable with him/herself?
- 4.) Do you agree with the message conveyed by the theme? Did you previously disagree with it? Do you still disagree with it but nonetheless find the author presents it convincingly? Do you find yourself confused, leaning toward the author's message but not able to accept it entirely?
- 5.) Is the author's style a distinctive one? How would you classify it—old-fashioned, modern, ornate, simple, flowery, or plain? How does the author use words to create his/her individual style—long involved sentences, short tern sentences, many poetic images and metaphors, or very factual, objective narration with little figurative language?

Due Date: You should plan on having your book read before you come back to school. Therefore, you should bring your journal and/or your annotated book to school with you on the **first day of school, September 2, 2014**. As support there will be a **Book BBQ** where you can come to have lunch and ask questions and dialogue with staff and students about your book. This will be held in the OPHS courtyard on **July 31, 2014:**

9th and 10th grades will attend from 12:00 p.m. -1:00p.m.

11th and 12th grades will attend from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Any and all questions/concerns can be answered by contacting the school at (248) 336-7740.