



8th Grade Honors Summer Reading

Text Options (Choose One):

Code Talkers by Joseph Bruchac

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

Assignment: Journal Entries and Project

Assignment Due Date: September 9, 2019

Directions: Complete **Part A and Part B** of the summer reading assignment.

Part A: Journal Entries (**FIVE** journal entries are required.)

Each entry should also reflect your understanding of the text. In other words, I should know that you read and understood the book through the details in your entries. Have something unique and interesting to say.

- **Step #1** - Divide the book into five sections, preferably after chapters or sections and not in the middle of them. You will complete **ONE** entry for each section. Therefore, you will have **FIVE** entries for your novel.
- **Step #2** - Choose entries from page two as you read each section. Choose an option that you know **you can write at least one full page**. Once you choose an option, you cannot do that option again. For instance, if you choose option #1, then you cannot do option #1 again for a different section of the novel. Each journal entry will be worth 10 points.

- **Step #3** - Write the entry.

Basic Requirements –

1-Typed Page, Double Spaced, One Inch Margins, Times New Roman Font, 12 Point Font

Heading Requirements - Upper Left Hand Corner

Name

Date

Eighth Grade English Novel Title (Italicized)

Journal Prompt Number (1 through 10)

Writing Requirements – You should begin your choice with a great topic sentence. Follow that with a series of supporting statements/details. End with a great conclusion that wraps up your thoughts on the subject. Each new idea requires a new paragraph.

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- **Step #4** - Edit, Revise & Professionalize

Always check your work over many times before submitting it to me. Have your parents or guardians look it over and offer suggestions. Your prompts will be your first impression, so make them great. Check for the following: Readability (Is each sentence worded in the best way?)

Journal Prompts (Five Required)

1. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it-amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored, ...?
2. Sometimes books touch you, reminding you of your own life, as part of the larger human experience. Are there connections between the book and your own life? Or, does the book remind you of an event (or events) that happened to someone you know?
3. Are you confused about what happened (or didn't happen) in the book? What events or characters do you not understand? Does the use of language in the book confuse you? Is there anything that the author could have done to make what happened (or didn't happen) more clear?
4. Is there an idea in the book that makes you stop and think, or prompts questions? Identify the idea and explain your responses.
5. What are your favorite lines/quotes? Cite them into your reading journal and explain why these passages caught your attention, and what they mean to you.
6. Does this section of the reading change the way for think about the world or the people in it? What did you learn that you never knew before?
7. Describe the main characters-their personality traits, motivations, inner qualities. Why do they do what they do? Are their actions justified? Do you admire or disapprove of them? Do they remind you of people you know?
8. How controversial are the issues raised in the book? Who is aligned on which sides of the issues? Where do you fall in that line-up?
9. What lesson(s) do you think the author is trying to teach? What themes do you find? What is the author's purpose? Does the author wish to preserve or reform our culture?
10. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?

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Part B: Projects

(Choose ONE project from Part B)

1. Make a scrapbook that one of the story's main characters might have kept during the time of the book's events. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary. Also include memorabilia such as photos, magazine clippings, movie tickets, etc. (Minimum of 15 entries required.)
2. Create a board game based on the events and characters in your book. Players of the game should learn what happened in the book simply by playing the game. Your game must include the following: a game board, a rule sheet, clear instructions, and characters from the story.
3. Create a video in which you recreate the scenes and perform major events (you must have at least 5 events).
4. Create a newspaper for your book. Summarize the plot in one article, cover the conflict on another section, do a feature story on one of the more interesting characters in another section, etc. include an editorial and a collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story.
5. Create a comic book for your novel complete with the bubble-style conversation. Include an editorial and a collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story.
6. Make a soundtrack for the book choosing at least 10 popular songs. For each song, explain in 3-4 sentences why you chose the song and how it relates to the events or characters in the book. You will need to submit a Powerpoint or Flashdrive of these songs.