

# English I Honors - Gibbs High School

## 2020-2021 Summer Reading

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**Assignment Due Date: ~~FRIDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>~~**

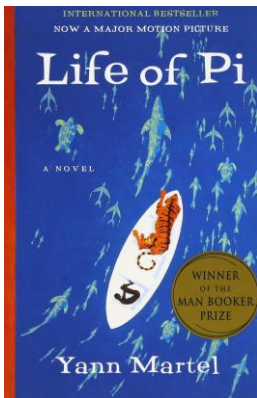
**Revised Due Date: FRIDAY, ~~August 21<sup>st</sup>~~ August 28<sup>th</sup>**

(regardless of which semester you take the class!)

**Overview:** Pick **one** novel from the **fiction** list and **one** novel from the **nonfiction** list to read this summer. Complete the attached book review, one for each book, due when you return to school in the fall.

So, to summarize, you will read TWO books and complete TWO book reviews (one per book). You will also have an essay to write based on your books within the first few weeks of school.

### **BOOK #1: 9th Grade Honors Summer Fiction List**

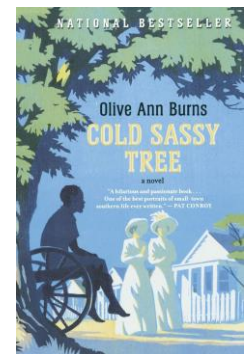


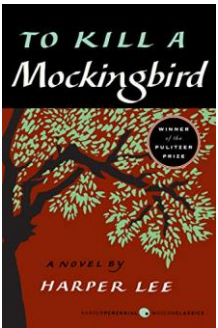
#### ***Life of Pi* by Yann Martel**

The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes. The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. (Amazon.com)

#### ***Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns**

Olive Ann Burns has given us a timeless, funny, resplendent novel - about a romance that rocks an entire town, about a boy's passage through the momentous but elusive year when childhood melts into adolescence, and about just how people lived and died in a small Southern town at the turn of the century. Inhabited by characters who are wise and loony, unimpeachably pious and deliciously irreverent, Cold Sassy, Georgia, is the perfect setting for the debut of a storyteller of rare brio, exuberance, and style. (Amazon.com)



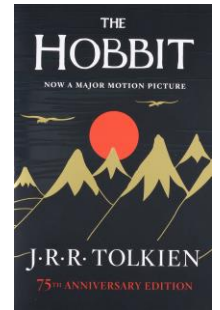


### ***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

One of the most cherished stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

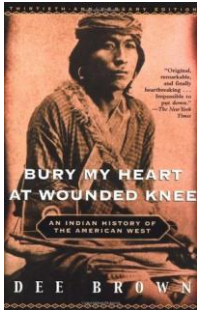
### ***The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien**

"In a hole in the ground, there lived a hobbit." So begins one of the most beloved and delightful tales in the English language. Set in the imaginary world of Middle-earth, at once a classic myth and a modern fairy tale, *The Hobbit* is one of literature's most enduring and well-loved novels.



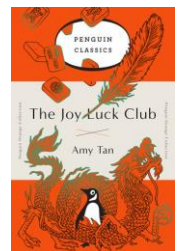
### ***Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown**

The “fascinating” #1 New York Times bestseller that awakened the world to the destruction of American Indians in the nineteenth-century West (*The Wall Street Journal*).



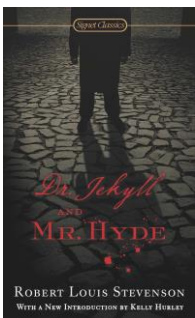
### ***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**

“*The Joy Luck Club* is one of my favorite books. From the moment I first started reading it, I knew it was going to be incredible. For me, it was one of those once-in-a-lifetime reading experiences that you cherish forever. It inspired me as a writer and still remains hugely inspirational.” — Kevin Kwan, author of *Crazy Rich Asians*. (Amazon.com)



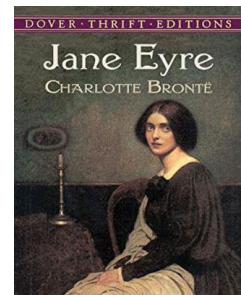
### ***Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson**

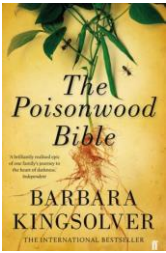
An intriguing combination of fantasy thriller and moral allegory, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* depicts the gripping struggle of two opposing personalities — one essentially good, the other evil — for the soul of one man. (Amazon.com)



### ***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte**

*Jane Eyre* follows the emotions and experiences of its title character, including her growth to adulthood, and her love for Mr. Rochester, the byronic master of fictitious Thornfield Hall. The novel contains elements of social criticism, with a strong sense of morality at its core, but is nonetheless a novel many consider ahead of its time given the individualistic character of Jane and the novel's exploration of classism, sexuality, religion, and feminism. (Amazon.com)



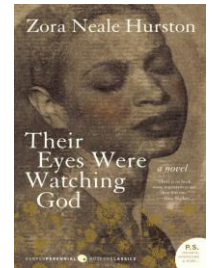


### **The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver**

*The Poisonwood Bible* is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa. (Amazon.com)

### **Their Eyes were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston**

One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston's classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature. (Amazon.com)

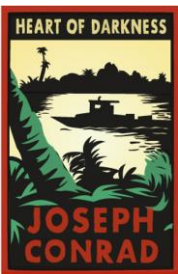
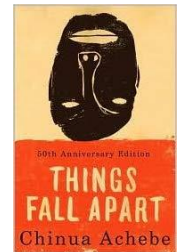


### **The Time Machine by H G Wells**

When an English Scientist, known only as the Time Traveller, invents a machine that can travel through time, the most logical outcome would be to test such a machine. After a trial run that saw him travel three hours into the future, the Time Traveller pushes further into the future to year 802,701, where he meets a mellow race of humans called the Eloi. Soon he discovers that the Eloi are not the only human race left on earth...

### **Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe**

"A true classic of world literature . . . A masterpiece that has inspired generations of writers in Nigeria, across Africa, and around the world." —Barack Obama. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. (Amazon.com)

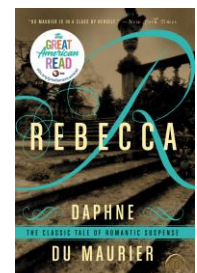


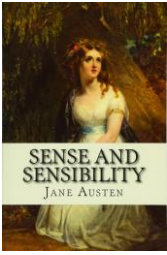
### **Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad**

Central to Conrad's work is the idea that there is little difference between so-called civilized people and those described as savages; *Heart of Darkness* raises important questions about imperialism and racism. Originally published as a three-part serial story in Blackwood's Magazine, the novella *Heart of Darkness* has been variously published and translated into many languages. (Amazon.com)

### **Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier**

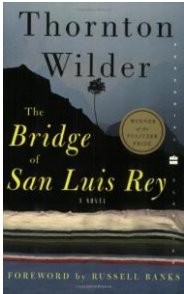
A PBS Great American Read Top 100 Pick. "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderly again." With these words, the reader is ushered into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew. (Amazon.com)





***Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen**

A work of romantic fiction, better known as a comedy of manners, *Sense and Sensibility* is set in southwest England, London and Kent between 1792 and 1797, and portrays the life and loves of the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne. The novel follows the young ladies to their new home, a meagre cottage on a distant relative's property, where they experience love, romance and heartbreak. (Amazon.com)



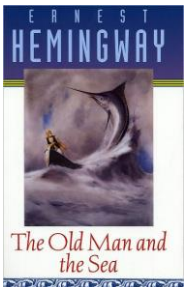
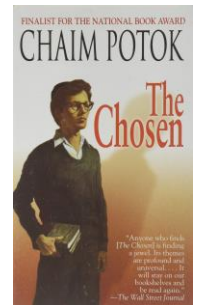
***The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder**

On Friday noon, July the twentieth, 1714, the finest bridge in all Peru broke and precipitated five travelers into the gulf below. With this celebrated sentence, one of the towering achievements in American fiction, and a novel read throughout the world, begins.

By fate or chance, a monk has witnessed the collapse. Brother Juniper, moved by the tragedy, embarks on a quest to prove a higher order is at work in the deaths of those who perished. His search leads readers on a timeless investigation into the nature of love and the meaning of the human condition. (Amazon.com)

***The Chosen* by Chaim Potok**

An epic novel based on the Biblical story of Daniel. It is the now-classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again. (Amazon.com)

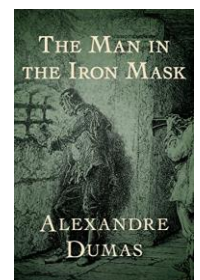


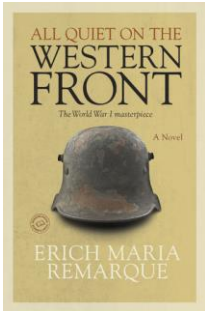
***The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway**

*The Old Man and the Sea* is one of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal -- a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. (Amazon.com)

***The Man in the Iron Mask* by Alexandre Dumas**

In this work we find the original three Musketeers in retirement and the identity of the original man in the iron mask unknown. Dumas constructs his story around the idea that this prisoner is in fact the twin brother of Louis XIV, imprisoned from birth by his father to prevent any conflict over a divided rule of the kingdom. When Aramis learns the secret of the man in the iron mask he devises a plot to replace the King with his twin brother, setting in motion a series of events which draws all the Musketeers back into action. (Amazon.com)

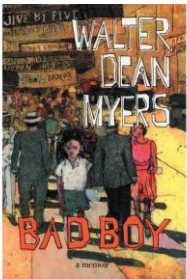




### **All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque**

This is the testament of Paul Bäumer, who enlists with his classmates in the German army during World War I. They become soldiers with youthful enthusiasm. But the world of duty, culture, and progress they had been taught breaks in pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches. (Amazon.com)

## **BOOK #2: 9th Grade Honors Summer Nonfiction List**

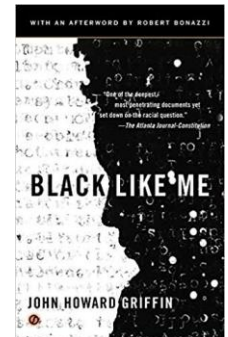


### **Bad Boy: A Memoir by Walter Dean Myers**

As a boy, Myers was quick-tempered and physically strong, always ready for a fight. He also read voraciously—he would check out books from the library and carry them home, hidden in brown paper bags in order to avoid other boys' teasing. He aspired to be a writer (and he eventually succeeded). But as his hope for a successful future diminished, the values he had been taught at home, in school, and in his community seemed worthless, and he turned to the streets and to his books for comfort. Here, in his own words, is the story of one of the most important voices of our time. (Amazon.com)

### **Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin**

In the Deep South of the 1950's, a color line was etched in blood across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Journalist John Howard Griffin decided to cross that line. Using medication that darkened his skin to deep brown, he exchanged his privileged life as a Southern white man for the disenfranchised world of an unemployed black man. What happened to John Howard Griffin—from the outside and within himself—as he made his way through the segregated Deep South is recorded in this searing work of nonfiction. His audacious, still chillingly relevant eyewitness history is a work about race and humanity every American must read. (Amazon.com)



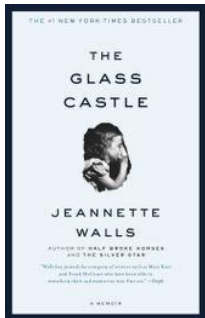
### **Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness by Susannah Cahalan**

An award-winning memoir and instant *New York Times* bestseller that goes far beyond its riveting medical mystery, *Brain on Fire* is the powerful account of one woman's struggle to recapture her identity. When twenty-four-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a hospital room, strapped to her bed and unable to move or speak, she had no memory of how she'd gotten there. Days earlier, she had been on the threshold of a new, adult life: at the beginning of her first serious relationship and a promising career at a major New York newspaper. Now she was labeled violent, psychotic, a flight risk. What happened?

In a swift and breathtaking narrative, Susannah tells the astonishing true story of her descent into madness, her family's inspiring faith in her, and the lifesaving diagnosis that nearly didn't happen. "A fascinating look at the disease that...could have cost this vibrant, vital young woman her life" (*People*), *Brain on Fire* is an unforgettable exploration of memory and identity, faith and love, and a profoundly compelling tale of survival and perseverance that is destined to become a classic. (Amazon.com)

### ***Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser**

In 2001, *Fast Food Nation* was published to critical acclaim and became an international bestseller. Eric Schlosser's exposé revealed how the fast food industry has altered the landscape of America, widened the gap between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and transformed food production throughout the world. The book changed the way millions of people think about what they eat and helped to launch today's food movement. In a new afterword for this edition, Schlosser discusses the growing interest in local and organic food, the continued exploitation of poor workers by the food industry, and the need to ensure that every American has access to good, healthy, affordable food. *Fast Food Nation* is as relevant today as it was a decade ago. The book inspires readers to look beneath the surface of our food system, consider its impact on society and, most of all, think for themselves. (Amazon.com)

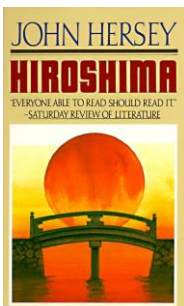
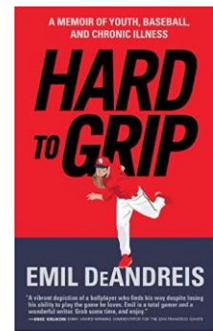


### ***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered. (Amazon.com)

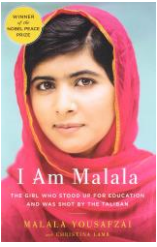
### ***Hard to Grip: a Memoir of Youth, Baseball, and Chronic Illness* by Emil DeAndreis**

*Hard To Grip* tells the story of a young man's body giving out when he needs it most. It chronicles an ascending sports career, the ups and downs of life in the NCAA, and the challenges of letting go of pro baseball due to a dehumanizing condition. In a series of humorous anecdotes, Emil takes the reader on his bittersweet journey of a young man's having to grapple with an "old woman's disease." From striking out future major leaguer All Stars, to sitting in support groups; from breaking university records, to barely making it up the stairs; from language barriers with Chinese healers to figuring out how to be employed as a vegetable, this book unveils the disease with humor and fearless honesty through the eyes of an unlikely victim. This memoir is an honest, rueful and at times hilarious story about learning to come to terms with a new reality, and an inspiring account of how Emil learned to run with the disease and not from it. (Amazon.com)



### ***Hiroshima* by John Hersey**

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey's journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic "that stirs the conscience of humanity" (*The New York Times*). Almost four decades after the original publication of this celebrated book, John Hersey went back to Hiroshima in search of the people whose stories he had told. His account of what he discovered about them is now the eloquent and moving final chapter of Hiroshima. (Amazon.com)

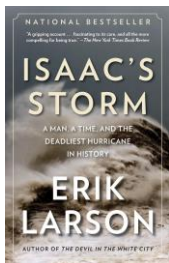
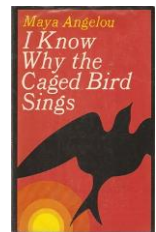


***I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb**

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. In this Young Readers Edition of her bestselling memoir, which has been reimagined specifically for a younger audience and includes exclusive photos and material, we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world -- and did. (Amazon.com)

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**

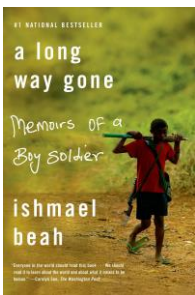
Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. (Amazon.com)



***Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History* by Erik Larson**

September 8, 1900, began innocently in the seaside town of Galveston, Texas. Even Isaac Cline, resident meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau failed to grasp the true meaning of the strange deep-sea swells and peculiar winds that greeted the city that morning. Mere hours later, Galveston found itself submerged in a monster hurricane that completely destroyed the town and killed over six thousand people in what remains the greatest natural disaster in American history--and Isaac Cline found himself the victim of a devastating personal tragedy.

Using Cline's own telegrams, letters, and reports, the testimony of scores of survivors, and our latest understanding of the science of hurricanes, Erik Larson builds a chronicle of one man's heroic struggle and fatal miscalculation in the face of a storm of unimaginable magnitude. Riveting, powerful, and unbearably suspenseful, *Isaac's Storm* is the story of what can happen when human arrogance meets the great uncontrollable force of nature. (Amazon.com)



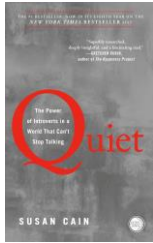
***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah**

What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived. In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

(Amazon.com)

## **Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi**

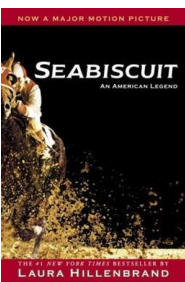
Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi's graphic memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. (Amazon.com)



## **Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain**

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over working in teams. It is to introverts—Rosa Parks, Chopin, Dr. Seuss, Steve Wozniak—that we owe many of the great contributions to society.

In *Quiet*, Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. She also introduces us to successful introverts—from a witty, high-octane public speaker who recharges in solitude after his talks, to a record-breaking salesman who quietly taps into the power of questions. Passionately argued, superbly researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how they see themselves. (Amazon.com)

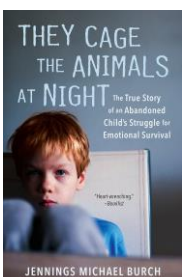
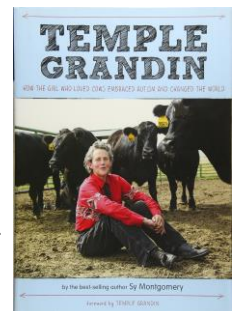


## **Seabiscuit: an American Legend by Lauren Hillenbrand**

Charles Howard was a one-time bicycle repairman who introduced the automobile to the western United States and became an overnight millionaire. When he needed a trainer for his new racehorses, he hired Tom Smith, a mysterious mustang breaker from the Colorado plains. Smith urged Howard to buy Seabiscuit for a bargain-basement price, then hired as his jockey Red Pollard, a failed boxer who was blind in one eye, half-crippled, and prone to quoting passages from Ralph Waldo Emerson. Over four years, these unlikely partners survived a phenomenal run of bad fortune, conspiracy, and severe injury to transform Seabiscuit from a neurotic, pathologically indolent also-ran into an American sports icon. (Amazon.com)

## **Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery**

When Temple Grandin was born, her parents knew she was different. Years later she was diagnosed with autism. Temple's doctor recommended institutionalizing her, but her mother believed in her. Temple went to school instead. Today, Dr. Temple Grandin, a scientist and professor of animal science at Colorado State University, is an autism advocate and her world-changing career revolutionized the livestock industry. This compelling biography and Temple's personal photos take us inside her extraordinary mind and open the door to a broader understanding of autism. (Amazon.com)



## **They Cage the Animals at Night by Jennings Michael Burch**

Here, in his own words, Jennings Michael Burch reveals the abuse and neglect he experienced during his lost childhood. But while his experiences are both shocking and devastating, his story is ultimately one of hope—the triumphant tale of a forgotten child who somehow found the courage to reach out for love, and found it waiting for him.



## Book Review Assignment

The purpose of this book review is to convince someone to read the book you chose for your summer reading. This book review is essentially an outline to convince the reader that they should check out a specific book.

The book review will cover some elements of the novel, but you should focus much of your time on the plot, themes and conflict in the novel. NO SPOILERS!!! (Don't give away anything juicy.)

**Your presentation must include a visual aid** (such as an illustration or original book cover, poster, PowerPoint, or Google presentation. If you are super tech-y, you might have an even better idea like a movie.)

**Book Review Outline (see attached graphic organizer):**

### **Attention Getter:**

Find an interesting, exciting, or mysterious quote to start off your presentation. This quote will get the reader's attention. Don't just pick any old quote... choose carefully and deliberately to try to capture the attention of the audience. Also explain why you chose the quote.

### **Introduction:**

Clearly introduce your book by giving the title, author and genre of the book.

### **Body:**

Describe the setting, characters, and plot of the book without giving too much away of the story.

What is the main conflict? What themes are developed? What lessons do characters learn? Please use precise and descriptive language. Don't just give a list of characters. Don't over-summarize. (Hint—you are doing this if you find yourself saying "and" too much.)

### **Conclusion:**

Without giving away the ending, convince the reader that you loved this book and that this is the book they want to read next. Make some predictions about what kind of student would enjoy this book ("if you like..., you'll love...").

**Alternative:** Students can pre-record a book-talk and upload it to youtube.com. All other requirements are the same. Search "book talks" or "book trailers" on youtube.com for examples.

Organizer for Book 1

Title:

Attention-Getter (Quote to hook the audience)
Introduction (Title, Author, Genre)
Body (Describe the plot, characters, conflict, themes, lessons learned without giving too much away!)
Conclusion (Why you loved the book, and why other students should read it—be specific)

Organizer for Book 2

Title:

Attention-Getter (Quote to hook the audience)
Introduction (Title, Author, Genre)
Body (Describe the plot, characters, conflict, themes, lessons learned without giving too much away!)
Conclusion (Why you loved the book, and why other students should read it—be specific)

An example of a short Book Review Outline on *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman:



(Attention-Getter)

“There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife.”

(Intro)

*The Graveyard Book* is a fictional novel by Neil Gaiman, who also wrote *Coraline*.

(Body)

In this book, Neil Gaiman tells the story of Nobody Owens, known as Bod. On the night his parents are brutally murdered, 2 year old Bod calmly climbs out of his crib and toddles out of the house and into a nearby cemetery. There he is adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Owens (childless and dead for 250 years!) who gladly care for the child and protect him from harm.

With loving ghostly parents, teachers, friends, and protectors, Bod grows from age two to fifteen in the graveyard. He learns to read and do numbers, and he also learns some ghostly skills. But not all the residents of the graveyard are friendly. There are witches, ghouls and creatures and let’s not forget Jack – the evil fiend who is out to finish the job he started.

(Conclusion)

Filled with great illustrations, this is a funny, exciting and suspenseful story. How will Bod survive? Or will he? Can his loving family and friends really protect him from the evil Jack? This delightfully gruesome and very English tale will certainly appeal to both boys and girls who like adventure stories, suspense and some action. *The Graveyard Book* won the Newbery Award in 2009, and the awards said that the book is a “delicious mix of murder, fantasy, humour and human longing,” according to Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Librarian for The Washington Evergreen Young Adult Book Award, 2011

Rubric for Book Review Outline

Criteria	Excellent 10	Above Average 8	Average 7	Below Average 6
Introduction is effective	Exceptionally creative beginning with an excellent quote	Creative beginning with a good quote	Not a very creative or interesting beginning with a quote	Not a very good beginning with no quote
Discusses the plot, setting, and characters  Discusses the theme	Thorough and interesting summary of these elements  Makes an insightful argument about the theme	Inconsistent summary of these elements  Correctly discusses theme but fails to elaborate on the importance	Average summary of the elements  Touches upon theme without much depth	Missing a component  Does not discuss theme or makes a very general statement about the theme
Conclusion makes us want to read the book (or not read the book)	Very enticing conclusion – draws the listener to read the book	Somewhat interesting conclusion- listener might want to read the book	Concluded but did not draw the listener to read the book	Very boring conclusion or no conclusion at all
Visual aid	Visual aid is well done, colorful, and very helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is colorful, and helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is completed and might be helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is not done or very poorly done

Stays within time limit: Yes / No

Comments:

Score: