




# 2020 Summer Assignment

for students entering 9th Grade at New Rochelle High School

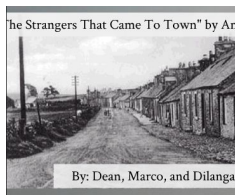
Your 9th grade English teachers want you to enjoy your summer. We would also like you to read as many of these short stories as you can. When you return to school, we will be discussing what you have read; we are interested in hearing which stories you really like, and why! You can choose from various “menu” options.

	<p><b>Mild:</b> 4 short stories, with annotations, and a written response for each text.</p>
	<p><b>Medium:</b> 6 short stories, with annotations, and a written response for each text. or <b>Medium:</b> 2 short stories with a written response for each text and a novel with a written response</p>
	<p><b>Spicy:</b> 4 short stories with a written response for each text and a novel with a written response</p>

## Short Story Menu

<p>Click on pics for the story!! You can also copy and paste the URL into your browser</p>	<p>Synopsis</p>
<p>“All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury</p>	<div data-bbox="618 1136 846 1472" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>This dystopian story takes place on the planet Venus, where there is constant rainpour and the only chance you have to see sunlight is every seven years for a mere two hours. Margot remembers life on Earth which isolates her from her classmates, so when the day finally arrives that the sun will shine, tensions run high.</p> <p><a href="http://staff.esuhd.org/danielle/english%20department%20village/rt/short%20stories/all%20summer%20in%20a%20day.pdf">http://staff.esuhd.org/danielle/english%20department%20village/rt/short%20stories/all%20summer%20in%20a%20day.pdf</a></p>
<p>“How to Transform an Everyday, Ordinary Hoop Court into a Place of Higher Learning and You at the Podium” by Matt De La Pena</p>	<div data-bbox="618 1667 818 1839" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>As the title suggests, it is a story of self-learning. The boy in the story is passionate about basketball and shares his experiences/connections between basketball and perseverance. It's about working hard to achieve your goals.</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iOIXRsq4B-3u96zcgpGVWDzy5FmZXyIC/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iOIXRsq4B-3u96zcgpGVWDzy5FmZXyIC/view?usp=sharing</a></p>

**“The Strangers Who Came to Town”** by Ambrose Flack



"The Strangers that Came to Town" is about the struggle felt by an immigrant family in Croatia as they try to adjust to the American way of life. They experience discrimination and prejudice by the locals, but despite this, the family continued to demonstrate resilience, optimism, and generosity to the people who continue to ostracize them. In the end, it is these traits that lead to the acceptance of the Duvitch family.  
<http://www.classicshorts.com/stories/StrangersTown.html>

**“Charles”** by Shirley Jackson



"Charles," is a short story told from the perspective of a mother, whose kindergarten son begins searching for his identity early in the school year. Her son's stories about a mischievous, ill-tempered classmate causes the narrator to focus more on the classmate than on her son. Watch out the twist ending!  
<https://1.cdn.edl.io/u4BeFnEmqBQhsT6Bl1lg5bBWCo892Wck4gLGy1uX67JBiZck.pdf>

**“And Summer Is Gone”** by Susie Kretschmer



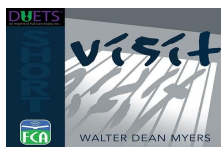
David and Amy meet when they are twelve and become close friends who spend their summer playing together and creating adventures. However, things start to change when they go back to school, and they change even more as they grow older.  
<https://msyangenglish.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/and-s-ummer-is-gone.pdf>

**“Mrs. Sen’s”** by Jhumpa Lahiri



This short story focuses on the relationship between Eliot, an 11-year-old boy, and Mrs. Sen, his older babysitter who recently immigrated from India. Although they are from different backgrounds and cultures, they have a lot to learn from one another. However, each learns that embracing change and gaining independence may come at a price.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ouqRg9uJLPJt1aly4fBTJJu1sXgX1dv\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ouqRg9uJLPJt1aly4fBTJJu1sXgX1dv_/view?usp=sharing)

**“Visit”** by Walter Dean Myers



A father visits his son in prison. This visit is the first time these two men have seen each other in twenty years. The two men recount the night that led to the son's incarceration.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oQNMpi65BRvJaxufeTp-zcWA4obki-TH/view?usp=sharing>

“Ashes” by Susan Beth Pfeffer



A girl, Ashleigh, struggles with negotiating between her divorced parents. Her strict mother and irresponsible father cannot get along and she wants to please both. The story ends in a cliffhanger where the reader is unsure of which critical choice that Ashleigh has made. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oQNMpi65BRvJaxufeTp-zcWA4obki-TH/view?usp=sharing>

“Rules of the Game” by Amy Tan



In this story, the narrator tells about her childhood when she learned the rules of chess from her brothers. She played often, and eventually became a chess champion. Through her struggle, her mother encourages and pushes her to be the best, for better or worse.

<https://jg019.k12.sd.us/eng1/Assignment%20Documents/Rules%20of%20the%20Game.pdf>

### Novel Menu:

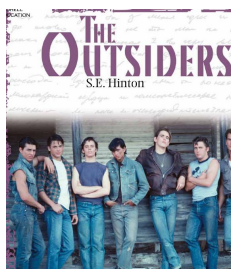
Title of Book

click on title for access to the full text

Synopsis

[The Outsiders](#) by S.E. Hinton

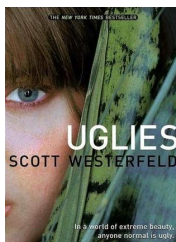
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=cmjjaGxhbmQyLm9yZ3xsYXdod3xneDoyNjgzNWEzYzVjNDUxOWZi>



The Outsiders, a novel by S.E. Hinton  
A riveting classic of young adult literature, The Outsiders explores gang life in the 1950's. Throughout the novel, readers follow Ponyboy Curtis, a young man whose parents were killed in a car accident. Left on his own with only a few family members and friends to rely on, Ponyboy makes decisions that will change his life forever. Although his struggles lead to tragic ends, they also serve as a catalyst for his development.

[The Uglies](#) by Scott Westerfeld

<https://www.readingsanctuary.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/uglies.pdf>



In this dystopian YA novel, teenagers undergo extreme cosmetic surgery at the age of 16, transforming from "Uglies" to "Pretties." Tally Youngblood, a 15-year-old girl, rebels against receiving the surgery. Despite benefits that Pretties receive in the government-run society, Tally slowly learns through friends, new and old, that the transformation is possibly more sinister than any of them realized.

### Try to be a **SPICY** Reader



**Medium:** 2 short stories with a written response for each text and a novel with a written response



**Spicy:** 4 short stories with a written response for each text and a novel with a written response

## Your Written Assignment

For each story (or book) you read, do the following:

### Task 1:

After you have completed a story or the novel, in a T-chart (see template below), choose two (2) meaningful quotations from different parts of the work. Include the page number for each quotation.

In 3-5 sentences, analyze the significance of the quotation in the context of the story or novel. Be sure that you explain why it is important, make connections to other parts of the story, and convey the overall meaning to the work.

### Task 2

- In a paragraph, state one important theme (a message or idea about life or a topic, a moral or a lesson) the story suggests.
- Then write a short explanation of how the character development or the conflict and resolution in the story develops the idea.

Here's a great way to come up with a theme from a story.

Pick some big issue topics that the story seems to be about.

For example: growth, family, school, learning, regret, happiness.

Then, think about how you can use that word in a sentence that makes a statement about that topic and life.

Check to see if the character development or conflict and resolution in the story supports that theme. You can tweak your theme to make it sound interesting, like something someone would want to read about.

Here are some sample themes  
(not necessarily related to the stories you are reading):

- Sometimes the best way to learn is through failure.
- People grow when they are challenged.
- Looking back at past experiences sometimes leads to regret.
- Family provides comfort in difficult times.
- Happiness can come from unexpected sources.

Student work will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Meaning, Development, Organization Clarity and Language Use/Conventions - [See Rubric for 9th Grade Summer Assignment](#)  
\*\*\*\*\* The assignment will count as the first quiz grade.\*\*\*\*\*

## Task 1 Example

Quote from Text (2 quotations per story)	Significance with Explanation (3-5 sentences for each quotation)
<p><b>Example (from <u>The Giver</u> by Lois Lowry):</b></p> <p><b>Quotation 1:</b> The narrator states: “Jonas and Lily both nodded sympathetically as well. Release of newchildren was always sad, because they hadn't had a chance to enjoy life within the community yet. And they hadn't done anything wrong,” (Pg. 13).</p> <p><b>Quotation 2:</b> “<i>He killed it! My father killed it!</i>” Jonas said to himself, stunned at what he was realizing. He continued to stare at the screen numbly...” (Pg. 150).</p>	<p><b>Quotation 1:</b> This quotation is important because it introduces one of the main conflicts in the story. At this point, it is not clear what “release” really is, but the way that Jonas and Lily respond here implies that it is not positive. Later in the story, it becomes clear that “release” means death. This is so haunting.</p> <p><b>Quotation 2:</b> This quotation is so powerful because it is the first time when Jonas realizes that a Nurturer kills people, and that is what “release” actually means. Here, Jonas watches his father “release” a baby. This is so sad. It really affects Jonas. Now Jonas has to struggle with this new understanding, creating intense internal conflict.</p>