

2019 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.



Mild: 4 short stories with a written response for each text.



Medium: 6 short stories with a written response for each text.

Short Story Menu

Click on pics for story!!

Synopsis

“All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury



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.

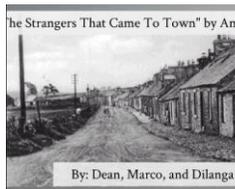
<http://staff.esuhd.org/danielle/english%20department%20lvillage/rt/short%20stories/all%20summer%20in%20a%20day.pdf>

“How to Transform an Everyday, Ordinary Hoop Court into a Place of Higher Learning and You at the Podium” by Matt De La Pena



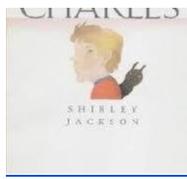
As the title suggests, it is a story of self-learning. The boy in the story is passionate about basketball and shares his experiences/connections between basketball and perseverance. It's about working hard to achieve your goals. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iOIXRsq4B-3u96zcgpGVWDzy5FmZXyIC/view?usp=sharing>

“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/u4BeFnEmqBQhsT6B11Ig5bBWCo892Wck4gLGY1uX67JBiZck.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-summer-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

“Visit” by Walter Dean Myers



A young man visits his father 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 lead to the father'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 cliff hanger 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>

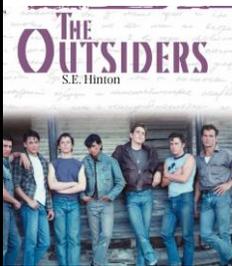
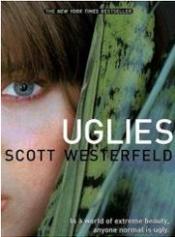
“Rules of the Game” by Amy Tan



In this story, the narrator tells about her childhood when she learned the rules of chess from her brothers. She played often, and eventually become 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	Synopsis
<p>The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton</p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p>The Uglies by Scott Westerfeld</p> 	<p>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.</p>

Try to be a SPICY Reader

	<p>Medium: 2 short stories with a written response for each text and a novel with a written response</p>
	<p>Spicy: 4 short stories with a written response for each text and a novel with a written response</p>

Your Written Assignment

For each story (or book) you read, write two short paragraphs (3-5 sentences each) to do the following:

Paragraph 1

Do you agree with what a character said or did? What do you think their motive was? Did you like the ending? Why or why not? What other texts or personal experiences can you connect to this? Explain your answers to show knowledge and understanding.

Paragraph 2

- 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:

Knowledge and Understanding, Clarity and Language Use/Conventions.

***** The assignment will count as the first quiz grade.*****