



Papillion La Vista South High School  
English Department  
Summer Reading Program

Purposes of Summer Reading

Reading effectively is a core skill needed by students no matter what their life plans include. Because of this truth, the English Department has developed the Summer Reading Program with these goals in mind:

- to rekindle the pleasure of reading at a more leisurely pace than is possible during the more hectic school year
- to give students a jump start on their regular curriculum
- to give students the opportunity to practice and develop valuable reading and note-taking skills

Focused Reading Guide

Course: English 11

Teacher/s: TBD

Title/s: (You pick 1)

*Divergent* – Veronica Roth OR *Ender's Game* – Orson Scott Card

Each of the above titles may be found in the school library and are available on a first-come-first served basis. Students may choose to purchase the text of their choice if none are available in the library.

The first day of school, we will collect your notes for a grade. Here are the notes we want to see. You will also have a quiz so be prepared.

The following is a list of concepts and characters on which to take notes this summer. You may take notes in a notebook, but they **must** contain page numbers and direct quotes. Or you may take notes in the book with sticky notes. (There are movies and you are welcome to watch them, but if you take notes from those, they will not count and you will be penalized.)

1. **Bad Boy (Girl):** In *American* literature, our heroes, often the “bad” boy/girl, always look the same and have many of the same characteristics. It helps us to find them. A “bad” boys/girls are not evil, just often rejected by society because they are different in many ways so viewed as bad. If you are reading a piece of American Literature, you will know your heroes if:
  - They are young and unmarried
  - They are not really accepted by the society in which they live. They will be considered outcasts from their families or communities for one reason or another.
  - They will make up their own minds about things before they blindly follow rules.
  - They may not be innocent themselves, but they will want to protect innocence when they find it in other people if it is threatened.
  - Example: Katniss Everdeen from *The Hunger Games*. She was independent, unmarried, thought for herself, didn't follow the rules, and tried to save her sister.

2. **Good Girls (Boys):** Your bad boy always has a good girl (or boy) to keep safe. She/he is
  - Innocent and trusting
  - His or her belief and faith in the goodness of human beings puts them at risk of being taken advantage of by “bad” people.
  - The bad boy/girl will want to protect them and sometimes that means even from themselves, so they may not end up as a couple.
  - The Good Girl/Boy will always be willing to help in their own “saving”. They will not just sit in the corner and wait to be a victim.
  - Example: Recently in American Literature, we had our first girl hero. Katniss Everdeen from *The Hunger Games* is a bad girl and protects a good boy, Peeta.
  
3. **The Bad Man or Woman:** Your bad boy/girl will always have something to overcome and that is usually a man or a woman who does not care about other people or the concept of innocence. The bad man/woman can sometimes take the form of a group or a society.
  - He/She will be just the opposite of your bad boy’s mentor...so read that description and you will know what you are looking for.
  - He/She only care about themselves, the rules of society, or power.
  - Example: In *The Hunger Games* the “Capital” is the bad man.
  
4. **Mentor:** Your Bad Boy or Girl will usually encounter a mentor who will teach him or her to find his or her own way and make them aware of their talents and importance.
  - They will NOT be in the same social class as your bad boy/girl. They could be richer, poorer, older, younger, in different factions or districts etc.
  - They teach the bad boy/girl to be a “good” person or more moral.
  - They will have values, morals or views that are the direct opposite of the Bad Man/Woman.
  - Example: Katniss and Haymitch in *The Hunger Games*, or Alfred and Batman.
  
5. **Being Reverent to the Dead:** Often your Bad Boy/Girl will show their humanity and heroism through paying respect to those who have died. This is usually done with words or actions on or around a grave stone, at a funeral, or death.
  - Example: Think flowers on Rue’s body and the three finger salute, or the fact that Batman became the protector of Gotham to honor the memory of his parents.

**Remember...You are NOT taking notes on plot! You are only taking notes on the elements contained in the 5 concepts above!** Notes will be collected on the first day and a quiz given. Make sure you are prepared. You will receive points for both the notes and the quiz.

Happy Reading!

