

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment for Honors

Dear Incoming Freshman,

Welcome to St. John's Catholic Prep! For your Summer Reading assignment you will be reading *Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman. While you are reading, keep track of quotes that you find interesting or significant. After you are done with the book, complete the chart included in this document. You will select ten quotes from the text which identify themes, symbols, characterization, and other significant or interesting portions of the story. You will also provide thorough commentary about the significance of each passage chosen. **This will be your first grade in the class and will be out of 20 points.**

You will also be writing an in-class essay incorporating your summer reading book during the first few days of school, so make sure you are familiar with the text.

Lastly, I have also included an example chart for you to use as a reference. Have fun with this book- it is super interesting! I'll be collecting the chart on the first day of class.

Looking forward to class with you in the fall!

Ms. Baum (soon-to-be Mrs. Boldt)

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Include the title and author here: _____

Quote (Include Context and page number)	Commentary
Begin with context (who, what, where, when), then include the quote. Finish with the page number that the quote is on.	Commentary is the place for your ideas. What questions does this passage raise for you? What is interesting or significant about it?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

We hope you have a great summer and are looking forward to meeting you soon with your work! –Ms. Baum

Sample Dialectical Notes: Incoming 9th Graders

(your assignment should look like the sample below)

Student Name

Teacher Last Name

Class & Period

Date

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

Context, Quote & Citation	Commentary/Response/Analysis
1) While describing the Washington Varsity Crew Coach, Al Ulbrickson, Brown writes, "In order to attend Franklin High School, he has to row a small boat two miles over to Seattle and back every day for four years.... [At the University of Washington] he excelled in both areas [crew and classes], and when he graduated in 1926, Washington quickly hired him as the freshmen crew coach, and then as head coach" (14).	This quote shows that something taxing and time consuming that Ulbrickson had to do was what brought him his success in life. The rowing he did everyday contributed to his ability to be so successful in rowing later in life. This expresses a theme common in many books; hard work will pay off. This theme is present in Ulbrickson's life because the hard work he put into rowing everyday led to a payoff – a successful rowing and coaching career. One way this theme is present in other people's lives is if you put in the work of studying for a test, your pay off will come when you get a good grade.
2) Don Hume, the stroke seat of the Washington Olympic boat, got sick right before the team's Olympic qualifying races. He was able to race, and get the boat into the Olympics, but since getting sick he had never fully recovered. A few days before their first Olympic race, their coach, Al Ulbrickson, told the press, "Hume means everything to us. Unless he recovers quickly and regains condition we don't have much chance" (322).	While the Olympic team did bring alternate rowers to fill in for anyone unable to compete, Ulbrickson was still very confident that they could not win without Hume. This goes to show how vital each and every person in that boat was to their success. Had Hume or one of the others not been able to race, they most likely wouldn't have won. Each boy was one part in this big machine, and with one of them changed, the whole thing would've fallen apart. With this, the author is able to give insight into that concept of "the boat" and help readers better understand the team dynamics.
3) An unnamed former coxswain who encounters the brilliance of George Pocock, University of Washington's boat-builder and advisor to the crew team, describes him by saying, "In his presence Washington crewmen always stood, for he symbolized that for which God's children always stand" (48).	The ex-rower's comments about George Pocock sufficiently summarize the man's stoic presence. It was such that commanded respect without a word, godly almost. The traits described exemplify those of an experienced mentor. Some of the greatest coaches of all time, such as Phil Jackson and John Wooden exhibit the same qualities as Pocock.