

Summer Reading

for students entering English 9

In the second half of your summer vacation, read one of the novels listed below. Then, complete the written assignment outlined below. This assignment will provide your teacher with a sample of your writing and will earn you extra credit in the first marking period.

Breathing Underwater by Alex Finn

On the surface, Nick Andreas seems to have it all. He's a good-looking, popular athlete with a steady girlfriend. But, Nick also struggles with a violent side, which usually appears whenever his girlfriend Caitlin is around. When his anger becomes uncontrollable and a restraining order is filed against him, Nick must find a way to set things right and regain his life (amazon.com).

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be *completely* normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy—an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of ghouls, the strange and terrible Sleer. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, he will be in danger from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family (amazon.com).

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau (amazon.com).

After you finish the novel, choose a character that interests you. Then, compare the ways that you and the character cope with conflict. Finally, write a personal response in which you write about the ways in which you and the character deal with problems similarly and differently.

If you have any questions, contact Ms. Freese at sfreese@hvrhs.org or Mr. deRham at rderham@hvrhs.org.