Dear incoming English 9 Honors student,

Your first assignment is to read at least two books over the summer: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak AND *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. Feel free to read more than just these two books, but remember that reading *The Book Thief* and *The Catcher in the Rye* is mandatory for all 9th grade students taking honors English next year.

**Required Book #1: The Book Thief**

**During-Reading Instructions:**

**Step #1:** Go to Google Classroom and enroll in our “2019 BHS English 9 Honors Summer Reading” class to join the discussion thread for the book--**Class Code: yi41eq**

You should join our group before schools ends so that we can address any issues that you may experience. Please email Mrs. Baez at sbaez@bergenfield.org if you encounter any technical difficulties.

**Step #2:** This task will allow you to participate in an interactive discussion about *The Book Thief* with your fellow classmates. As you read, choose quotations – any passages from each chapter of the novel – that seem significant, memorable, or confusing. On Google Classroom, type the quotation *exactly* as it appears in the book. Please include quotation marks and page numbers. Think carefully about the meaning of each quote and thoroughly analyze and discuss the significance. Your responses must be original, insightful, thoughtful, and well-developed. Your posts must demonstrate that you have carefully read and understood the literary work. DO NOT simply summarize; you must analyze and evaluate. The quality, details, and thoughtfulness of each entry will be evaluated. As a general rule, you should write one well-developed paragraph/post consisting of 8-10 sentences for each chapter; you will have a total of 10 posts.

**MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE POSTING YOUR RESPONSES UNDER THE APPROPRIATE CHAPTER TO RECEIVE CREDIT AND TO AVOID SPOILERS.**

**Step #3:** Read through your peers’ responses and then post at least two replies to your classmates’ comments. At a minimum, these replies should consist of 3-4 sentences.

**Step #4:** Using Google Docs, copy and paste all of your posts into a single document labeled “The Book Thief Summer Reading” and make sure you clearly label each chapter in chronological order. Save this document on your Google Drive, print out a hard copy, and bring to class on Monday, September 9th to submit for a grade.

**What to Expect in Class:** When you return to school in September, we will use the posts as a basis for our class discussions on *The Book Thief*. You will be expected to participate in shared-inquiry discussions as well as writing assignments on the literary work.
**The last day to post on Google Classroom will be BEFORE Monday, 9/9/19. You will not be able to post after this date—which means that you will not receive credit for this assignment if your work is not submitted on time.** These posts are worth 50 possible points that will count towards your 1st marking period. Please refer to the attached scoring guide so that you can be fully aware of how your responses will be scored.

**Required Book #2: The Catcher in the Rye**

**During-Reading Instructions:** Actively and thoroughly read Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye*. For this novel you will not be required to respond to our online discussion board, instead, you are to take good notes as you read so that you can be well prepared to analyze and discuss the novel in September. The more thorough and detailed your notes are, the more prepared you will be to successfully complete assignments on this novel when we meet in the fall. These notes are intended to help you understand the novel on a deeper level. You may choose to take notes in a double-entry journal, sticky notes, or any other format that you find useful.

**What to Expect in Class:** When you return to school in September, be prepared to participate in shared inquiry discussions, take a test, and complete a writing assignment based on the novel. Each of these assignments will all be scored and they will count towards your 1st marking period grade.

These activities will be aligned with the following Common Core State Standards to ensure your further growth in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language usage—all of which are necessary for your future success:

- Reading Informational Texts………………….RI.9-10.1-6, RI.9-10.8, RI.9-10.10
- Reading Literary Texts………………………RL.9-10.1-6, RL.9-10.10
- Writing………………………………………..W.9-10.1-10
- Speaking and Listening……………………SL.9-10.1-6
- Language……………………………………..L.9-10.1-6

Again, this is a *mandatory* assignment for all 9th grades students taking honors English at BHS. When school starts in September, we will delve right into these novels and explore each novel’s characters, symbols, and themes very closely. I hope that you enjoy reading both of these literary works. Have a great summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Baez
Bergenfield Public Schools
Humanities Department
Summer Reading 2018

Due Date: September 9, 2019

The Book Thief Posts on Google Classroom
Scoring Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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| 50    | Detailed, meaningful passages, plot and quote selections  
      | Minimum of 1 post per chapter of the novel; 2 thoughtful replies to classmates’ comments  
      | Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the texts  
      | Strong textual evidence used to support claims  
      | Includes comments about literary elements and how they contribute to the meaning of the text  
      | Makes insightful personal connections and asks thought-provoking, insightful questions  
      | Coverage of text is complete and thorough  
      | There are no errors in punctuation, capitalization, grammar or spelling |
| 40    | Less detailed, but good plot and quote selections  
      | Generally 1 post per chapter of the novel; 1-2 replies to classmates’ comments  
      | Some intelligent commentary; addresses some thematic connections  
      | Textual evidence is used to support ideas  
      | Includes some literary elements, but less on how they contribute to the meaning  
      | Some personal connection; asks pertinent questions  
      | Adequately addresses all parts of reading assignment  
      | There are minor errors in punctuation, capitalization, grammar or spelling |
| 30    | Few good details from the text  
      | Minimum of 5 posts and replies for the novel; replies to classmates are too broad  
      | Most of the commentary is vague, unsupported, or plot summary/paraphrase  
      | Use of textual evidence is not strong  
      | Some listing of literary elements; virtually no discussion on meaning  
      | Limited personal connection; asks few, or obvious questions  
      | Addresses most of the reading assignment, but is not very long or thorough  
      | There are a few errors in punctuation, capitalization, grammar or spelling |
| 20 or below | Few/basic details from the text  
                | Minimal and superficial posts/replies for each novel; minimal (or missing) replies to classmates  
                | Posts are mainly a plot summary or paraphrase  
                | Lack of textual support  
                | Few literary elements, virtually no discussion on meaning  
                | Limited personal connections, no good questions  
                | Limited coverage of the text (too short and vague)  
                | There are numerous errors in punctuation, capitalization, grammar or spelling |
**Instructions for selecting passages and posting responses to Google Classroom:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You can select quotes based on:</th>
<th>Think carefully about the quote and in your post, analyze the importance. Your responses must be original, insightful, thoughtful, and well-developed. DO NOT simply summarize; you must analyze and evaluate. The quality, details, and thoughtfulness of each entry will be evaluated. Your responses may include the following:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Details that seem significant or interesting to you</td>
<td>• Commentary about the significance of the quotation</td>
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<td>• Passages that embody a major theme in the work</td>
<td>• Questions/reactions to plot, characters, relationships, setting, etc.</td>
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<td>• Details that reveal character development or motivation</td>
<td>• Personal reflections and/or connections between your personal experiences and the book</td>
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<td>• Ideas presented that you agree or disagree with</td>
<td>• Discussion of the author’s intended audience and purpose for writing</td>
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<td>• Lines that demonstrate effective use of literary devices</td>
<td>• Discussion of any distinctive or interesting aspects of this author’s style</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Passages that demonstrate the writer’s purpose</td>
<td>• Discussion of the use of literary elements and devices</td>
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<td>• Predictions you make about what will happen next</td>
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**Potential idea starters:**

I wonder if…
This reminds me of…
I disagree because…
It seems important that…
I don’t understand how…
I predict that…
What if…
This seems the same as…
This can apply to…
Compared to…
Why would the author…
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sample Student entry based on Salinger’s <em>The Catcher in the Rye</em>Pg. 66-68, Chapter 10</th>
<th>On the surface, Holden tries to assume a detached and care-free attitude. This passage, however, shows that deep down, Holden is desperate to reach out to someone—anyone. I wonder why he can’t seem to interact with those around him or why he doesn’t give himself the chance to open up. It should be easy enough to call Phoebe up, considering how highly he speaks of her. According to Holden, pretty much everyone that he encounters is a “phony” yet these lines actually demonstrate that he too possesses the negative traits that he finds so loathsome in others. Why doesn’t he allow himself the opportunity to open up to others if this is something that he seems to need? What is he so afraid of? Why is he so disconnected and apathetic? He is always coming up with excuses as to why he can’t talk to someone. The problem is that they are just that—excuses. Is he simply afraid to get too close to anyone?</th>
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<td>“While I was changing my shirt, I damn near gave my kid sister Phoebe a buzz, though. I certainly felt like talking to her on the phone. Somebody with sense and all. But I couldn’t take a chance on giving her a buzz, because she was only a little kid and she wouldn’t have been up, let alone anywhere near the phone… everybody with sense, anyway.”</td>
<td></td>
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