

In September we will delve into the following books – **You should be prepared to be tested on these novels during 1st quarter and to use the novels for your first in class essay.**

Required Reading (Please buy your TWO books – New/used paper copy or E reader is fine!)

1. The Fifth Child – Doris Lessing

With Harriet's fifth pregnancy, ... this idyll (quickly, hypnotically sketched) begins to fall under a sickly, expanding, implacable shadow. The expectant mother is tormented by the fierce, unnaturally strong fetus. When born, baby Ben is heavy, muscular, creepy-looking--"like a troll, or a goblin or something"... As a child, he's hostile, unteachable... dangerously violent with each passing year. The family is splintered, cruelly transformed--by fear, shame, and furious sorrow ... the plain story itself--fine-tuned with ordinary-life details yet also insidiously fable-like--is stark, relentless, and memorably harrowing. – Kirkus Review

2. The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night-Time – Mark Haddon

Britisher Haddon debuts in the adult novel with the bittersweet tale of a 15-year-old autistic who's also a math genius. Christopher Boone has had some bad knocks: his mother has died, ...and soon after he found a neighbor's dog on the front lawn, slain by a garden fork stuck through it. A teacher said that he should write something that he "would like to read himself"—and so he embarks on this book, a murder mystery that will reveal who killed Mrs. Shears's dog. – Kirkus Review

You should **read approximately 20 pages a day** - By reading at least 20 pages at a time, you will become more involved with the stories and you will also keep on track so that you don't need to cram your summer reading in at the last moment. **Don't forget your summer reading assignments will be a large percentage of your 1st quarter grade**

ASSIGNMENT FOR BOTH NOVELS – This assignment is designed to help your reading comprehension.

While you read, use Post-it Notes/or highlight and make notes on your Ipad.

Use Post-It Notes or annotate in margins as you are reading The Fifth Child & Curious Incident. The post-it notes/annotations should help you remember details, about characters and plot. It is also a way to help you read critically and keep you engaged with the book. You may want to put post-it notes in your book or highlight when...

- a new character is introduced a character trait is shown due to action
- a major plot shift occurs a new place is introduced
- you don't understand or want to discuss something (*Why did she do that?*)
- you are excited by something (*She is terrible! Or He must feel awful!*)

Do not get too carried away with this – you should read the book to enjoy it (not furiously stop to write), but the notes do seem to help people keep track of characters, plot points, etc. Different readers will use this technique to varying degrees, but I **do** want you to use it.

****You will have to bring The Fifth Child & Curious Incident to class with the post-it notes intact/or annotations OR highlights on the Ipad version, so that I can see that you used this technique ****

In Addition – IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ MORE DURING THE SUMMER – Please do! Two British Lit suggestions are:

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte and Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt - Remember these are not required, but if you would like to do some extra reading – I would be happy to lead a book discussion after school on either one or both of these fantastic books in September for anyone who is interested.



Enjoy the summer and enjoy your reading! -Ms. Halloran