

## Summer Reading Assignment – 9th Grade English 9: 2021-2022

### Assigned Books:

- *Ender's Game*, by Orson Scott Card
- *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros

**Welcome to the English program at Mission College Preparatory!** An important component of the English program is the summer reading assignment. This assignment has four main goals: to promote your interest in reading, to keep you intellectually engaged, to broaden your horizons, and to ease your transition into high school.

Summer reading is a graded assignment. Your teacher expects you to read both books carefully and thoughtfully. Your knowledge of the books will be assessed in three ways:

- An exam--to be taken once school begins (but not on the first day)
- A piece of writing--to be assigned once school begins
- A visual analysis--to be assigned once school begins

To foster your success on these assignments take notes as you read. (See annotating strategies below.) These notes will help you generate ideas and locate specific textual support when completing the writing assignment and will assist you in reviewing for the exam.

1. **The Exam** (taken during the first week of school)
  - You will take an exam that will focus on reading comprehension and analysis.
  - The exam will not be on the first day of school; however, you should be prepared to discuss the book at length on the first day in order to prepare for your exam.
  - The exam will include literary elements such as plot, characters, setting, and theme.
2. **The Writing Assignment** (composed during the second week of school)
  - You will write thematic literary analyses of the novels.
  - **As you read this summer**, pay attention to the messages that each author is putting forth. Remember, all authors write for specific purposes; as critical thinkers, our job is to figure out that purpose.
  - We will discuss how to write thematic statements and work on the assignment's construction, during class, prior to writing it.
3. **The Visual Analysis** (assigned during the first week of school)
  - You will create a visual representation of a theme of one of the novels.
  - **As you read this summer**, pay attention to why you think each author wrote the book: what message or observation about life is each author putting forth?
  - More details about how to complete this assignment will be provided the first week of school.

### Annotating Strategies

- Annotate your novels by either writing in your book or using post-it notes throughout.
- Write comments for yourself--your questions, ideas, and feelings--in the margins or on the post-it notes both **during** and immediately **after** you read.
- Circle/note the names of main characters when they first appear.
- After each chapter, write a short summary of what happened (bullet points or a sentence or two)
- Underline passages or put a star beside passages you think are important. Next to any underlined or starred passages, you should write comments about why you found these passages significant. (Most important are your comments: you will not remember what you were thinking at the time if you merely underline, highlight, or star passages.)
- Put a question mark beside anything that you do not understand or would like to ask about in class.