**Honors Tenth Grade Literature**

**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**

**COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL**

**LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE PREPARATORY MAGNET**

**2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

HONORS TENTH GRADE LITERATURE SUMMER READING

The purpose for summer reading in Honors Tenth Grade Literature is to prepare you for the level of reading, writing, and thinking that is the hallmark of this course. You will complete a writing assignment for Neal Shusterman’s *Scythe.* **Your assignment must be typed and submitted electronically to Canvas and turnitin.com on the first day of school.**

ABOUT PLAGIARISM:

Please keep in mind that all of your assignments should be YOUR original work and your work ALONE. Do NOT be tempted to share answers with another student, plagiarize from the internet, or use AI because it will be easily detected in the turnitin.com website. Should any student(s) be found guilty of plagiarizing from the internet, using AI, or copying another student’s work, he or she will receive a zero on the summer reading assignment, will have his or her parents contacted, will receive permanent documentation on his or her school transcript, will be stripped of any academic honors for a full school year, and will appear before the CHS Honor Council for further disciplinary action. As our school motto reads, “Commitment, Honor, and Success,” we expect your work to mirror our desire for your personal success and academic excellence.

* ***Scythe* by Neal Shusterman:**

Two teens must learn the “art of killing” in this Printz Honor–winning book, the first in a chilling new series from Neal Shusterman. A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

Publication Information:

*Scythe* by Neal Shusterman (2017 Michael L Prinze Award) Paperback: 435 pages; Publisher: Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition (October 24, 2017) ISBN-13: 978-1-4424-7243-3

Complete the reading and writing assignment by the end of July. Make sure you annotate (write notes, questions, highlight, etc.) as you read. WRITE in your book, or if you read the novel online, write notes on paper. This will assist with your overall comprehension of the novel. You will create a dialectical journal following the instructions below. This journal will be equivalent to a 50-point writing assignment. **Your writing assignment must be ready for submission on the first day of school. Please be mindful of avoiding plagiarism. The majority of your writing should be your own, and the similarity should only be on the quotes portion of your dialectical journal, not on the side with your reflection.**

Your task is to read the novel, and complete the following critical reading and writing activities:

1. **As you read,** you will write a dialectical journal in which you pick 10 significant passages from the book. These passages should demonstrate your engagement with the novel; thus, they should be chosen from different parts of the book. You may give your personal reaction to the selected passage, discuss ideas or actions of the author or character(s), make connections, write what the passage makes you think or feel or analyze the passage and its relationship to the story as a whole. The purpose of the dialectical journal is to help you develop a better understanding of the text as you read. Each response should be at least 3-6 sentences in length (required 50 words or more).

2. Prepare your dialectical journal (via a Google document) that includes the quote from the novel written in MLA format (with page number) **as well as your written response in the third column.**

4. Prepare your entries in a three-column format as the following model illustrates. You may **NOT** use the following example as one of your ten required entries. Remember, your dialectical journal entries will be due 11:59 PM ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, August 8, 2024. **Please include your name & assignment title** – ***Scythe* – Dialectical Journal**

**Dialectical Journal format is as follows**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Page #** | **Quote/Passage from the novel:** | **Analysis & Significance:** |
| 18 | “Everything had gone wrong inside this man, absolutely everything, any one of which could have been fatal: the clotting, the massive hemorrhages, the liver turned into pudding, the intestines full of blood. Lacking words, categories, or language to describe what had happened, they called it finally, a case of ‘fulminating liver failure’ ” (Preston 18). | In this passage the author utilizes scientific details and imagery to describe what Monet suffered after encountering what is perhaps the origin of the virus. This passage reveals the scientific studies in the initial stages prior to isolating a virus or cause of transmission. Perhaps this is the author’s way of shocking the reader into realizing the harsh realities of such a devastating virus while also recognizing the importance of ending its transmission.  (71 words) |
|  | * MLA format required! | * Word count required! |

**GRADING FOR THE WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

**In order to receive full credit, you must meet the following criteria for each entry**:

1. Did you follow the correct MLA format for the quote or passage and the three-column format as shown

above?

2. Did you give appropriate explanation of your reasoning for the significance of the quote with at least

3-6 sentences and at least 50 words (with word count) per entry?

**Parents & Students: Please feel free to contact Mrs. E. Jenkins or Ms. Laxton via email at** [**Jenkins.Eadeinna.H@muscogee.k12.ga.us**](mailto:Jenkins.Eadeinna.H@muscogee.k12.ga.us) **or** [**laxton.jennifer.p@muscogee.k12.ga.us**](mailto:laxton.jennifer.p@muscogee.k12.ga.us) **with any questions or concerns you may have.**