

TechBoston Academy - Summer Reading 2010

This summer, you are required to read and respond to the book indicated for your upcoming grade. In addition to reading the book in its entirety, you must keep a Reading Journal that you will submit at the beginning of the new school year for a test grade. At this time, you will also begin a quick study of this novel with your classmates. In addition, you will be expected to write about your summer reading in your first Writing Prompt. Completing this summer reading assignment is not an option – it is mandatory!

Grade 10	<i>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i> by Ishmael Beah
Grade 11	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> by Maya Angelou or <i>Black Boy</i> by Richard Wright
Grade 12	<i>All Souls</i> by Michael Patrick MacDonald

To ensure that you actually read the novel (and not a summary online), **you are required to complete a Reading Journal**. This journal can be typed or kept in a notebook and should include **ten entries** to receive full credit. You may choose any ten of the following questions to answer, but each entry must consist of at least **two well-developed paragraphs made up of thoughtful and thorough sentences**. Capturing your ideas on **sticky notes** as you read will help prepare you to write your entries.

1. Identify the setting and mood of the opening scene and discuss how this mood is established. Also, explain the initial conflict as it is introduced in the beginning of the story.
2. Construct a list of unfamiliar vocabulary words and take time to research and record the correct definitions.
3. Were you able to make an accurate prediction about something that happened later in the story? On what did you base your prediction?
4. If you could ask the author or characters any questions, what would you want to know?
5. How do characters change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger such changes?
6. Select and record five passages or quotations that you consider most important and tell why they are significant to the selection.
7. Do you agree or disagree with the decisions that certain characters make?
8. What important themes does this book discuss? How are they developed?
9. Does this book remind you of any experiences in your own life? In what ways can you relate to the characters or themes presented in the book?
10. Does this book remind you of any other books you've read? In what ways are the stories similar and/or different?
11. What bothers you about this book? What bothers you about certain characters?
12. How has reading this book changed your opinion of a certain person or topic?
13. What life lessons can you learn from reading this book?
14. What about the plot? Did it pull you in or did you feel you had to force yourself to read the book? Explain.
15. Do the characters seem real and believable? To what extent do they remind you of yourself or someone you know?
16. What were the three most memorable moments of the book? Explain what made these scenes so unforgettable.
17. At what point in the book did you decide if you liked it or not? What helped make this decision?
18. Does the author present information in a way that is interesting and insightful, and if so, how does he or she achieve this?
19. Would you recommend this book to other people? Explain why or why not.
20. If you were to direct a movie adaptation of the book, which actors would you cast as the main characters? Explain your choices.

Extra credit will be awarded to students who read and respond to additional books from the reading list. In order to receive points, you must select a title from the appropriate grade level and complete the abovementioned journal assignment for each book that you choose.

Grade 10

Mandatory	<i>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i>	Beah
	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Achebe
	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	Salinger
	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	Kidd
	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>	Alvarez
	<i>Postmortem</i>	Cornwell
	<i>The Joy Luck Club</i>	Tan
	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>	Gaines

Grade 11

Mandatory	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> or <i>Black Boy</i>	Angelou Wright
	<i>The Color Purple</i>	Walker
	<i>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All American Meal</i>	Schlosser
	<i>My Sister's Keeper</i>	Picoult
	<i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>	Jacobs
	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	Kidd
	<i>Having Our Say</i>	Delaney Sisters
	<i>In Nueva York</i>	Mohr

Grade 12

Mandatory	<i>All Souls</i>	MacDonald
	<i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i>	Marquez
	<i>In the Time of Butterflies</i>	Alvarez
	<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>	Haley
	<i>Song of Solomon</i>	Morrison
	<i>Angela's Ashes</i>	McCourt
	<i>The Life of Pi: A Novel</i>	Martel
	<i>Bel Canto</i>	Patchett