2019 PHS Grade 9 CP Genre Studies Summer Reading Assignment

Incoming ninth grade Genre Studies students are required to read at least one book this summer. College Prep students must choose a book on this list and answer three of the questions below. It is recommended that all students take notes while they are reading. Your response to each question must be one-two fully developed paragraphs, including specific details. Your typed responses will be submitted to turnitin.com the first full week of school, and this assessment will count as a grade for the first marking period.

1. What happens in the story? If it is fiction, draw a plot triangle and label it (climax, resolution, rising action, etc.) If it is non-fiction, identify what the author discusses in each chapter or section of the book. Discuss some of the significant episodes or incidents that occur in the story.

2. Who are the most important characters? Identify the protagonist / antagonist. Write down information and characteristics about each one.

3. What kinds of conflicts does the plot contain or the characters do encounter? (The conflict types include character vs. character, character vs. self, character vs nature, character vs. God / supernatural force, character vs. society, character vs. machine). Explain in detail how these conflicts affect the characters.

4. Where does the story take place? Provide specific information about the place, time, and social context of the book. Is the setting important?

5. What are some of the important symbols in the book? What kinds of objects does the author describe frequently?

6. Identify any other noteworthy literary techniques (satire, tone, flashback, foreshadowing, etc.) the author utilizes. Explain their significance in the book.

7. What is the meaning of the title of the book?

8. What do you think that the author’s theme or message is? What is he/she trying to tell you by writing this book? How do you know?
**The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver**
Taylor Greer heads west after high school to seek her own life, and discovers much about herself, love, and family along the way. (Fiction)

**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith**
Francie Nolan, avid reader, penny-candy connoisseur, and practiced observer of human nature, has much to ponder in colorful, turn-of-the-century Brooklyn. She grows up with a sweet, tragic father, a severely realistic mother, and to a brother who will always be the favored child. (Fiction)

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon**
A teenage boy with Asperger’s Syndrome plies his relentless logic to discovering who killed a neighbor’s dog, and his mystery story becomes more complicated than he could have ever predicted. (Fiction)

**Kill Shakespeare by Conor McCreery**
This dark take on the Bard pits his greatest heroes (Hamlet, Juliet, Othello Falstaff) against his most menacing villains (Richard III, Lady Macbeth, Iago) in an epic adventure to find and kill a reclusive wizard named William Shakespeare. All 12 issues, collected in one complete volume. (Graphic Novel)

**Tomboy by Liz Prince**
Growing up, Liz Prince wasn't a girly girl, dressing in pink tutus or playing pretty princess like the other girls in her neighborhood. But she wasn't exactly one of the guys, either. She was somewhere in between. But with the forces of middle school, high school, parents, friendship, and romance pulling her this way and that, "the middle" wasn't exactly an easy place to be. *Tomboy* follows award-winning author and artist Liz Prince through her early years and explores--with humor, honesty, and poignancy--what it means to "be a girl." (Graphic Novel)

**The Education of a Coach by David Halberstam**
Bill Belichick's thirty-one years in the NFL have been marked by amazing success—most recently with the New England Patriots. In this groundbreaking book, David Halberstam explores the nuances of both the game and the man behind it. He uncovers what makes Bill Belichick tick both on and off the field. (Nonfiction)

**Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam by Elizabeth Partridge**
It's the personal stories of eight people—six American soldiers, one American military nurse, and one Vietnamese refugee—that create the heartbeat of *Boots on the Ground*. From dense jungles and terrifying firefights to chaotic helicopter rescues and harrowing escapes, each individual experience reveals a different facet of the war and moves us forward in time. Alternating with these chapters are profiles of key American leaders and events, reminding us of all that was happening at home during the war, including peace protests, presidential scandals, and veterans' struggles to acclimate to life after Vietnam.
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah
This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this and survived. (Nonfiction)

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand
In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and even greater trials. Unbroken is an unforgettable testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit, brought vividly to life. (Nonfiction)

Life of Pi by Yann Martel
En route with his family from their home in India to Canada, young Pi Patel’s cargo ship sinks, and he finds himself adrift in a lifeboat—with a zebra, an orangutan, a hyena, and a Bengal tiger. (Fiction)

** As this is a list aimed at high school level students, some of the books address mature ideas and issues. Please preview the books before making your selections so that you are not surprised by the content.