

# HOLY CHILD

EDUCATING YOUNG WOMEN OF CONSCIENCE AND ACTION

## 9th Grade Summer 2018 Reading Assignment

Dear Students,

We are very much looking forward to working with you in the coming school year and supporting your growth as readers, writers, leaders, and thinkers. To prepare you for your course in World Literature this year and our study of a diverse range of authors and genres, we ask that you complete some work this summer.

The summer reading assignment is intended to encourage you to reflect on the specific books you read, to value reading for pleasure, and to relate reading to your own life. The best way to approach this assignment is to look over the topics before reading each text and to make appropriate notes while reading. Your typed responses will be the basis for class discussion and papers or assignments that your teacher may assign in September. As you read, consider plots, themes, language, and characterization.

All incoming ninth grade students are responsible for reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

You are also responsible for reading **ONE** of the three novels listed below:

*In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah

*Sold* by Patricia McCormick

In addition to reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and one of the choice novels, we ask that you write a paragraph (at least 8-10 sentences) about each book. This assignment should be typed and ready to submit during the first week of school. Your paragraphs should respond to one of the following questions:

1. What did you see as an essential moment in the life of one of the novel's characters. How did that one moment impact his or her character?
2. Write about one of the novel's main characters. Discuss one or two traits they possess and how those traits impact their experiences.
3. A theme might be defined as "an underlying message an author conveys in a given work." For example, a novel's theme could be "Love conquers all." What is the theme in the novel you read? How does the author develop that theme either through character or plot? Does that theme have any relevance to our world today?

Again, we look forward to working with you in the fall, and we hope you have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gazso and Ms. Polos  
English 9 Teachers