

# SAINT DOMINIC ACADEMY

## ENGLISH I - SUMMER READING - 2021

### Summer Reading for English 9

Reading is essential for success at St. Dom's, in college, and in the workplace. In addition to suggesting that students read widely on their own, the St. Dom's faculty requires that freshmen read and reflect on some of the six books listed below. Students enrolled in English I College Preparatory (CP) and Honors must read two selections.

Summer reading is meant to be a pleasure; it is also meant to expand your understanding and develop your skill at reading. Carefully make your selections so that you will enjoy and benefit from reading. Look for these books at local libraries and bookstores as well as through internet booksellers. Students are encouraged to take notes and reflect on the readings. In the first week of class, students' knowledge of themes, characters, and conflicts will be tested. Reading evaluations will count as a first quarter test grade.

#### **REQUIRED: (graphic novel) Beowulf by Gareth Hinds**

This exhilarating graphic-novel edition of an ancient classic honors the spirit of the original as it attracts modern readers.

The epic tale of the great warrior Beowulf has thrilled readers through the ages — and now it is reinvented for a new generation with Gareth Hinds's masterful illustrations. Grendel's black blood runs thick as Beowulf defeats the monster and his hideous mother, while somber hues overcast the hero's final, fatal battle against a raging dragon. Speeches filled with courage and

sadness, lightning-paced contests of muscle and will, and funeral boats burning on the fjords are all rendered in glorious and gruesome detail. Told for more than a thousand years, Beowulf's heroic saga finds a true home in this graphic-novel edition.

*From Amazon.com*

#### **SATT**

Ask yourself these questions about what you have read.

- **Setting:** when and where is the event occurring? Could there be any symbolic significance to the author's choice of setting?
- **Action:** What is occurring in the passage? Why did the author choose those particular actions?
- **Time:** How much time elapses? How is the passage of time (if any) depicted? How is it significant to the text?
- **Theme:** What message is being conveyed through the story? What is shown about human interactions?
- **Tone:** What is the author's attitude toward the subject? What does this suggest? Consider syntax and diction.

#### **Free Choice Reading Assignment**

For your free choice book(s), do 2 more DEDs (Double Entry Draft). Make sure you are analyzing two SATT for each DED, and your analysis must fill the entire right side of the page.

Please remember, enjoyed your read, and engage in the books. Show that you

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are an insightful and enthusiastic reader. Take a risk, be passionate, show yourself as a thinking, feeling human being who sees reading and writing as a tool that helps us see ourselves and those around us better.

**CP students need to choose one free choice reading book.**

**Honors students need to choose two free choice reading books.**

- **Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keys**  
**Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer**
- **The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson**
- **The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown**
- **The Martian by Andy Weir**
- **Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson**
- **Bluefish by Pat Schmatz**
- **Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card**
- **Things Fall Apart by Chinua Acheb**

Here is an example beginning analysis for each SATTT. Remember, you only need to discuss 2 SATTTs for each DED, and your analysis must fill the entire right side of the page. Note that the form of a DED uses a quote selected from the text located on the left-hand side of a piece of paper, and includes the source citation: title, author, and page number. On the right-hand side is your analysis.

*Of Mice and Men*  
John Steinbeck

“George’s voice became deeper. He repeated his words rhythmically as though he had said them many times before. “Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world””(13).

**SATTT:**

**Setting:** This is the first moment where we hear of George and Lennie’s plan to own their own ranch and live together independently. It occurs prior to George and Lennie’s arrival at the ranch, where Steinbeck has the two sleep out in nature before returning to their lives as ranch hands. The men, in a sense, are themselves lost in nature on their way to the ranch, yet their dream positions them in a place of importance and permanence. This setting becomes significant, as this is the place where George and Lennie’s dream is revealed to us, and also where it ends.

**Action:** The author’s choice to reveal the dream as one of the first things we learn about George and Lennie demonstrates how important the dream is. It is evident that the dream has been told many times before by the change in George’s demeanor when speaking. George becomes more controlled and purposeful further implying the weight of the dream.

**Time:** Although there is not a considerable amount of time is spent on this passage, Steinbeck establishes its importance by leaving it for the end of the chapter. He also includes Lennie in

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the telling of the dream as a way to rush through it with excitement. George tells the dream rhythmically and purposefully, while Lennie excitedly finishes his thoughts and sentences, further emphasizing the importance of the dream since we know that Lennie has difficulty remembering things.

**Theme:** The significance of the dream and the hope that it brings for the characters is central to Steinbeck's story. We are led to want to believe in the dream yet we know that it is a desperate hope. Though the characters lay out their plans rhythmically we wonder if they will all work out. Even with Steinbeck's emphasis that their plans are "best laid" other critical factors can and do lead them astray.