

# Cougar New Tech

## 2016-2017 Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Cougar New Tech Parent/Guardian:

Reading is the one skill upon which all others depend, and research tells us that children who don't read during the summer may lose a month or more of the reading progress they made in school.

Our mission in Cougar New Tech is to have all students succeed; therefore, all students who enter Cougar New Tech for the 2016-2017 school year are **required** to read **ONE** book from the appropriate list below. Most of these books are available for rent at the Colleton County public library as well as for purchase at barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com

Students who enroll with Cougar New Tech late will also be responsible for summer reading. They need to make sure that they get access to the summer reading information upon enrollment. If the student is new to this district and officially enrolls at least two weeks prior to the official start of school, the student will be responsible for the completion of the assignment in line with the rest of the students.

### **College Preparatory Student Expectations for the required summer reading are as follows:**

- As the student reads his or her choice from the books below, s/he is expected to create **ten** dialectical journal entries using the template provided within this packet. Students are not permitted to use outside sources, and this material should be SELF-GENERATED.
  - **These journal responses will be due at the end of the first week of English class.**
- In addition to the dialectical journals, students will be expected to participate in **structured classroom discussions** about the selected book during the first four weeks of school.
- At the end of these four weeks, the students will be expected to complete a formal final product from the appropriate list provided to complete for a major grade in his or her English class.

### **Honors Level Student Expectations for the required summer reading are as follows:**

- As the student reads his or her choice from the books above, s/he is expected to create **fifteen** dialectical journal entries using the template provided within this packet. Students are not permitted to use outside sources, and this material should be SELF-GENERATED.
  - **These journal responses will be due at the end of the first week of English class.**
- In addition to the dialectical journals, students will be expected to participate in **structured classroom discussions** about the selected book during the first four weeks of school.
- At the end of these four weeks, the honors level students will be expected to complete a formal final product from the appropriate list provided to complete for a major grade in his or her English class.

As you work on your final product, please be aware of the high school's policy for cheating/plagiarism:

**CCHS DOES NOT TOLERATE CHEATING OF ANY KIND.** Students who engage in cheating or other questionable behavior (*including but is not limited to switching test booklets or materials, plagiarism, talking and text messaging*) during classes, assignments or testing (*teacher made or national standardized test e.g. End of Course Exams*) may be given a grade of zero. Students may also be disciplined.

This information and all rubrics can also be found on the Cougar New Tech Summer Reading Website

<https://sites.google.com/a/cougarnewtech.com/summerreading/>

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### Dialectical Journal Explanation

Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the text that you have chosen to read. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the text. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the texts and your ideas about the themes of the text. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you're reading, to prepare yourself for group discussion, and to gather textual evidence for your official assessment at the beginning of the year. Each journal entry will be evaluated using the provided rubric. The final grade for the dialectical journals will be an **overall average of the student's individual journal scores**.

- **COLLEGE PREP** level students are required to complete **ten** dialectical journals.
- **HONORS** level students are required to complete **fifteen** dialectical journals.

#### **Procedure and Expectations:**

- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of the chart (ALWAYS include page numbers).
- You should have dialectical journals that cover the whole text (Think about completing one or more entries every few chapters).
- You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be **specific and detailed**.
- Each entry must be a **minimum** of three sentences.

#### **Sample Dialectical Journal entry: *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen**

Passages from the text	Pg #s	Comments & Questions (The student's response to the text)
<p>“Now, with the thought of the burger, the emptiness roared at him. He could not believe the hunger, had never felt this way. The lake water had filled his stomach, but left it hungry, and not it demanded food, screamed for food.”</p>	48	<p>It's weird how Brian's stomach is like a character now, driving his behavior. I've been hungry before, but never like that. Is he going to start eating things that are poison because he is so hungry?</p>

#### **Choosing Passages from the Text:**

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- Turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

#### **Sample Sentence Starters:**

I really don't understand this because...

I think the author is trying to say that...

If I were (name of character) at this point I would...

This character reminds me of (name of person) because...

I really dislike/like this idea because...

This passage reminds me of a time in my life when...

This part doesn't make sense because...

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### Final Product Assessment Opportunities

Remember, this final product will be due at the end of the fourth week of school.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students/First Year New Tech Students

*\*\*FINAL PRODUCT RUBRICS will be provided during the first week of school or they can be accessed on the Cougar New Tech Summer Reading Website.*

1. Poster or PowerPoint
  - a. Describe the *two main characters*.
    - i. Use the following questions to help you:
      1. Who are they?
      2. What happens to them throughout the story?
      3. What is one major **character trait** of each person?
    - ii. Support your answer with details from the book, *using at least three pieces of textual evidence, noting the page numbers to complete the project.*
  - b. Type a short summary, **at least 250 words**, of the story.
  - c. Identify one or more major the theme(s) of the story.
    - i. Support your answer with details from the book, *using at least three pieces of textual evidence, noting the page numbers to complete the project.*
  - d. Make a personal connection to the book.
    - i. Use the following questions to guide your response: Why did you read this book?, What did you learn?, Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?

#### 10th and 11th Grade Students/Returning New Tech Students

*\*\*FINAL PRODUCT RUBRICS will be provided during the first week of school or they can be accessed on the Cougar New Tech Summer Reading Website.*

1. **Persuasive Essay**
  - a. The essay should follow traditional MLA format and include the following:
    - i. An introductory paragraph in which the student:
      1. introduces the plot, the characters, and the main conflict(s)
      2. states their opinion of the book and why they would recommend it to their peers.
    - ii. Body paragraphs that elaborate on:
      1. The impact the book had on the student, and why someone else should read it.
        - a. *Using at least three pieces of textual evidence, noting the page numbers.*
    - iii. Keep in mind these two tips:
      1. The body of your letter should *persuade* rather than summarize the book.
      2. Only YOU can explain that unique feelings you experienced while reading the book.
2. **Newspaper** (minimum 3 pages)
  - a. Include the following elements:
    - i. An editorial that reviews the book (this should be a plot summary)
    - ii. A weather report (this should relate to the weather in the story at some important moment in the plot)
    - iii. Two feature articles:
      1. The Protagonist:
        - a. Should include the following information: background on character, interesting facts about the character, why that character is important in the story, and an appropriate picture of the character
          - i. *Using at least three pieces of textual evidence, noting the page numbers.*
      2. The Main Conflict:
        - a. Should include an analysis of: how the conflict unfolded, which characters were involved, how the characters were impacted, and how the conflict was resolved.
        - b. *Using at least three pieces of textual evidence, noting the page numbers to complete the project.*
    - iv. A collection of ads that relate to the story and its characters.

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### Student Book Lists

#### Students scheduled to take English I within Cougar New Tech

**\*\*CHOOSE ONE BOOK\*\***

- *The Devil's Highway* by Stan Applegate (NF) **Lexile: 620L**
  - An amazing true story that documents when 26 men attempted to cross the Mexican border into the southern Arizona desert in 2001. Only 12 men survived. It is a heartbreaking and real story that shows the humanity behind illegal immigration and the fact that some people will risk everything to find a better life for their families.
- *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton (F) **Lexile: 710L**
  - An island off Costa Rica will soon be the world's most ambitious theme park--a dinosaur preserve. Fifteen different species, presumably incapable of breeding, are now placidly roaming around, but Jurassic Park's resident mathematician, an expert in chaos theory, predicts that the animal's behavior is inherently unstable. When a rival genetics firm attempts to steal frozen dinosaur embryos, things go haywire. Two cute American kids, eight-year-old Tina and 11-year-old Tim, a safari guide from Kenya and a Denver paleontologist set things right--almost. --Review from Publishers Weekly via barnesandnoble.com
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (F) **Lexile: 710L**
  - The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. --Overview from barnesandnoble.com

#### Students scheduled to take English II within Cougar New Tech

**\*\*CHOOSE ONE BOOK\*\***

- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline (F) **Lexile: 990L**
  - "The world has turned into a very bleak place, but luckily there is OASIS, a virtual reality world that is a vast online utopia. People can plug into OASIS to play, go to school, earn money, and even meet other people (or at least they can meet their avatars), and for protagonist Wade Watts it certainly beats passing the time in his grim, poverty-stricken real life. Along with millions of other world-wide citizens, Wade dreams of finding three keys left behind by James Halliday, the now-deceased creator of OASIS and the richest man to have ever lived. The keys are rumored to be hidden inside OASIS, and whoever finds them will inherit Halliday's fortune. But Halliday has not made it easy. And there are real dangers in this virtual world."--Chris Schlupe, Amazon Best Book of the Month
- *The Book Thief* by Mark Zusak (F) **Lexile: 730L**
  - It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. Set during World War II in Germany, this groundbreaking novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist--books. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. --Overview from barnesandnoble.com
- *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream* (NF) by H.G. Bissinger **Lexile: 1220L**
  - Bissinger, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Philadelphia Inquirer editor, left his job to spend a year with a high school football team in the depressed West Texas oil town of Odessa. Here 20,000 fans turn out regularly to watch their Permian Panthers win. Here there is no high-blown talk of playing the game well; just the raw need to win at all costs. In this atmosphere, players vomit from nervousness before each game and often play with injuries. Bissinger makes you feel the tensions of the kids, who are not just playing a game, but literally fighting for the honor of their town. - Nora Rawlinson, "Library Journal"

#### Students scheduled to take English III within Cougar New Tech

**\*\*CHOOSE ONE BOOK\*\***

- *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson (NF) **Lexile: 1210L**
  - Bryson shares his experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail with a childhood friend. The two encounter eccentric characters, a blizzard, getting lost, and the threat of bears along the way.
- *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, with Christina Lamb (NF) **Lexile: 830L**
  - When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday October 9, 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price. When she was shot in the head at point blank range while riding the bus home from school, few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in Northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. *I am Malala* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, and of Malala's parents' fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. --Overview from amazon.com

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- *Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara (NF) **Lexile: 610L**
  - This compelling story about the Battle of Gettysburg gets inside the minds of the generals from both the North and the South. The reader understands the conflicts that drove these men to fight against their friends and fellow countrymen. The reader sees the Battle of Gettysburg complete with all its horror.
- *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams (F) **Lexile: 1000L**
  - Don't leave Earth without this hilarious international bestseller about a British earthling plucked from his planet and his subsequent adventures elsewhere in the universe. Follow the protagonist to the end of the world and the happy go-lucky days that follow. Read about the worst Thursday that ever happened and discover why the Universe is a lot safer if you bring a trowel.
- *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher (F) **Lexile: 550L**
  - Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker - his classmate and crush - who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah's voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out why. Clay spends the night crisscrossing his town with Hannah as his guide. He becomes a firsthand witness to Hannah's pain, and learns the truth about himself-a truth he never wanted to face. –Overview from amazon.com

### Students scheduled to take English IV within Cougar New Tech

**\*\*CHOOSE ONE BOOK\*\***

- *1984* by George Orwell (F) **Lexile: 1090L**
  - In a grim city and a terrifying country, where Big Brother is always Watching You and the Thought Police can practically read your mind, Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. He knows the Party's official image of the world is a fluid fiction. He knows the Party controls the people by feeding them lies and narrowing their imaginations. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood.. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be.
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Hadden (F) **Lexile: 1180L**
  - Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.
- *Persepolis* AND *Persepolis 2* (Graphic Novels) by Marjane Satrapi **Lexile: GN380L and GN500L**
  - *Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression.
- *In Cold Blood* (NF) by Truman Capote **Lexile: 1040L**
  - Truman Capote reconstructs the 1959 murder of a Kansas family and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers. The story is about the lives and deaths of these six people, the victims and the murderers. Ground breaking journalism that reads like fiction. –Overview from barnesandnoble.com
- *Into the Wild* (NF) by Jon Krakauer **Lexile: 1270L**
  - In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*. –Overview from barnesandnoble.com
- *Six Questions of Socrates: A Modern-Day Journey of Discovery through World Philosophy* by Christopher Phillips **Lexile: N/A**
  - What is virtue? What is moderation? What is justice? What is courage? What is good? What is piety? Socrates thought that understanding the perspectives of others on these six great questions would help him become a more excellent human being. Following in Socrates's footsteps, Christopher Phillips investigates these same questions, beginning in the marketplace of modern-day Athens. Phillips enlarges our perspectives on life's fundamental questions, creating an innovative world survey of philosophy.