

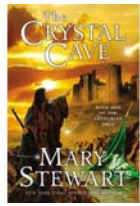
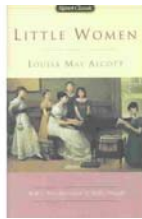
2009-2010 EHS 9th Grade Pre-AP English Summer Reading Instructions and lists

Over the summer, you must read at least **TWO** books and complete two assignments for each one. Choose **ONE BOOK FROM EACH LIST.**

LIST A

Little Women---Louisa May Alcott

In picturesque 19th-century New England, tomboyish Jo, beautiful Meg, fragile Beth, and romantic Amy come of age while their father is off to war.



The Crystal Cave—Mary Stewart

Born the bastard son of a Welsh princess, Myrddin Emrys -- or as he would later be known, Merlin -- leads a perilous childhood, haunted by portents and visions. But destiny

has great plans for this no-man's-son, taking him from prophesying before the High King Vortigern to the crowning of Uther Pendragon . . . and the conception of Arthur -- king for once and always.

The Red Badge of Courage—Stephen Crane

Published thirty years after the Civil War, this "impressionistic" American classic tells a war story in a thoroughly modern way - without a trace of romanticizing. Through the eyes of ordinary soldier Henry Fleming, we follow his psychological turmoil, from the excitement of patriotism to the bloody realities of battle and his flight from it. In the end, he overcomes his fear and disillusionment, and fights with courage.



A Separate Peace—John Knowles

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like

the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

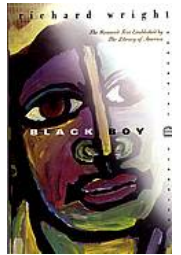
A bestseller for more than thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is John Knowles's crowning achievement and an undisputed American classic.



LIST B

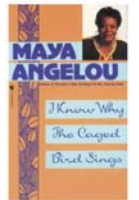
Black Boy—Richard Wright

Black Boy is Richard Wright's memoir of his life from early childhood to the launching of his career as a writer. His father abandoned the family soon after they moved to Memphis, leaving Wright, his mother and brother in dire straits. Schooling throughout his childhood was erratic and often interrupted; he eventually completed the ninth grade.



I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings—Maya Angelo

In the first volume of an extraordinary autobiographical series, one of the most inspiring authors of our time recalls--with candor, humor, poignancy and grace--how her journey began....



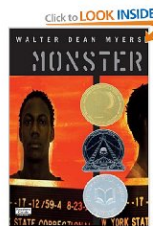
Native Son—Richard Wright

Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. *Native Son* tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.



Monster—Walter Dean Myers

Walter Dean Myers creates the story of sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon, from Steve's point of view, as he struggles with the fact that he is being tried for felony murder. It is a trial that, if the jury finds him guilty, could result in the death penalty at worst, and at best, over twenty years in prison. Steve is a young filmmaker, and as a result, Myers writes the novel in two forms. Most sections open with a narrative from Steve, as written in a notebook that he keeps in prison and in the courtroom, and then close in a screenplay format, where the characters' names are given in all-capital letters and camera directions accompany the dialog



These books are available at any bookstore and the Elgin and/or Austin Public Libraries. If you have trouble finding any of these books, please contact me by email. (elizivey@hotmail.com)

What to do:

DUE: The first Friday of school

Part 1: Reading Journal Instructions:

For each book, you will be required to turn in a reading journal. About every few chapters (or about every 20-25 pages) stop and answer ONE of the questions below. You do not need to copy the question, but write the answer in complete sentences. Each response should be at least 5-7 sentences long. You must have at least **THREE** journal entries per book in addition to a review at the end.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS:

1. Summarize the events of the last section you read.
2. Describe two of the main characters. Be sure to include physical description, as well as clues to their personalities. **INCLUDE A QUOTE FROM THE TEXT.**
3. Relate an event from the book to something in your own life. How were your feelings different or similar to the characters'? How are *you* like to or different from a character?
4. Describe the setting of the book—either the book as a whole or a scene in the book. Include details about time and place, and why it is important to the book as a whole.
5. Predict what you think will happen in the next few chapters of the book. (obviously, you must *not* be finished with the book)
6. Write about the book's main idea and/or theme. What is it? Is there more than one?
7. Choose a scene from the book and describe it using lots of adjectives.

Example Reading journal entry:

Pg. 54 Chapter 1: "The Bride" Question #2. One of the main characters in the book is Buttercup. She is introduced as a baby, but most of the events take place when she is a young woman. She is described on page 54 as having hair "the color of Autumn" and skin the color of "wintery cream". Wesley is the main male character. He is described as having "eyes like the sea before a storm" and "pale blond hair," (g. 46). In her bed one night, Buttercup thinks, "the farmboy did have good teeth...white and perfect, particularly"(pg. 46) This is one of the first clues of her feelings about him. He is quiet, and in love with Buttercup, who at first pays him no attention at all. She realizes that she loves him eventually, but they are not together long.

Part 2: Book Review: You must do ONE for EACH novel. Reviews must be at least three paragraphs, and follow the format below:

- I. Introduction:** Include title, author, publication year, and any background information about the book's setting, if it's part of a series, or any other pertinent information.
- II. Summary:** Begin with a description of the setting (time and place) and a description of the main characters. What is the book's point of view (who is telling the story?) Then list the main events in the book in chronological order. Identify the climax and the resolution. Then discuss the theme or main ideas of the novel.
- III. Evaluation:** Did the author achieve his/her purpose? In other words, if the book's theme was romance, was it an accurate description of love? Did the characters seem believable? Were they complex or simple? Was the pace of the book appropriate? Finally, did you enjoy the book, and would you recommend it to a friend?

Journals and reviews must be NEATLY printed or typed. This will be a major grade the first 6 weeks of the year, and you will not make above a C the first six weeks if you do not complete the summer reading. If you have any questions, please email me at eivey@elginisd.net or elizivey@hotmail.com. In addition to the above assignments, there may be a test over the novel the first week of school. If you read the novel, the test will be very easy.

Thanks, and have a wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing you next year,

Elizabeth Ivey

