

Dear Parents, Guardians and Prospective Ninth Graders,

Here at Thomas Edison Energy Smart Charter School, we believe that every child should be exposed to the exciting world of literature and its capacity to develop critical thinking skills needed throughout a person's life. A central goal of the school is to establish a daily reading habit in the busy lives of all our students. Through independent reading assignments, we want to develop reading fluency and stamina, which result in increased reading rates and thus, help students develop confidence, build vocabulary, and improve writing. It is our hope that we can work together with parents to ignite and sustain the pleasure and passion of young readers as well as to instill a comfortable confidence in students as they build stamina for reading in preparation for college and career. Because reading for an hour or two in one sitting is a basic expectation in college it is expected that your child will read for at least one-hour a day during the Summer Break.

Students entering into ninth grade are to complete each of the reading and writing assignments below. All assignments are to be typed using only Times New Roman font, size 12, and double-spaced. Each assignment has a specific page length that must be met in order to earn full credit. If for some reason a student does not have access to a computer a hand written note from either a parent or guardian explaining why they could not type up the assignments must be attached to their work. Students will lose points automatically if they are not typed and a note from home is absent.

All work will be due by September 1, 2017 and will count as first marking period project grade for the st course. Online submission will be available to students who will not be present in school on September 1. Please be mindful that ten points will be taken off for each day late. A rubric is also attached which clearly identifies the expectations and grading.

Late work will be graded as follows:

1 day late, 10 points are taken off

2 days late 20 points are taken off

3 or more days late no grade higher than 50% will be granted

Summer Reading Assignment for Ninth Graders

Choose two books from the list below to read. Honors students are required to read three books.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian—Sherman Alexie

Junior is a fourteen-year old boy living on the Spokane **Indian** Reservation in Washington. He was born with hydrocephalus (water in the brain), which has led to a number of health problems.

The Namesake—Jhumpa Lahiri

In *The Namesake*, Lahiri enriches the themes that made her collection an international bestseller: the immigrant experience, the clash of cultures, the conflicts of assimilation, and, most poignantly, the tangled ties between generations.

The Secret Life of Bees—Sue Monk Kidd

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past.

The Help—Kathryn Stockett

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town.

The Kite Runner---Khaled Hosseini

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time—Mark Haddon

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.

The Alchemist—Paulo Coelho

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to

our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

The Life of Pi---Yann Martel

The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes.

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother---James McBride

Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful debut, *The Color Of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*.

Writing Assignments: For each book that you choose, you are required to answer the following questions. All answers must be typed (12pt font, Times Roman, double-spaced) and have textual evidence to support your thinking. Textual evidence should be a combination of paraphrasing and direct quotes from the text. Each question requires you to write at least one to two detailed paragraphs.

1. Name one **protagonist** in the story and describe his or her character traits. Explain what the character does or says to demonstrate these traits. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
2. Name one **antagonist** in the story and describe his or her character traits. Explain what the character does or says to demonstrate these traits. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
3. Describe in detail the main **setting** of the story (when and where the story takes place). Describe one way that the setting affects the characters. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
4. There are four types of **conflict**: character vs. character, character vs. self, character vs. nature, and character vs. society. Choose TWO important conflicts in the story and for each conflict:
 - a. Identify the type of conflict and the characters involved in the conflict. Include textual evidence to support your answer.
 - b. Describe the conflict in detail using textual evidence to support your answer.

ESSAY: Write a three- page thematic essay (five pages for Honors Students) for each book that you read. Your essay must address the following criteria:

A **theme** is a lesson learned about life or human behavior. Identify one theme in the story and choose three examples that demonstrate the theme. Describe those examples in detail using textual evidence to support your ideas about theme. Be sure to state and explain how that specific theme is developed through the author’s use of various literary elements such as characterization, simile, imagery, metaphor, and conflict, etc. Each essay will be graded according to the rubric below. **This rubric is an abbreviated version of the PARCC writing rubric that students will be assessed on this coming school year.**

Essay Grading Rubric

	Reading Comprehension of Key Ideas & Details	Written Expression: Development of Ideas	Written Expression: Organization	Written Expression: Clarity of Language	Writing Knowledge of Language and Conventions
0	Little to no accurate textual analysis, Little to no comprehension of text ideas.	Inappropriate to the task, purpose, and/or audience.	Lack of coherence, clarity and cohesion.	Inappropriate style; little to no awareness of the writing rules and paragraph organization; little to no precise language.	Little to no command of conventions; frequent and varied errors in grammar and usage; little or no control over language; frequent distracting errors in grammar and usage often impede understanding.
1	Little accurate textual analysis cited some textual evidence; limited comprehension of ideas expressed in the text(s).	Develops the claims with limited reasoning, details, text-based evidence and/or description; limited appropriateness to task, purpose, and/or audience.	Limited coherence, clarity, &/or cohesion; progression of ideas somewhat unclear.	Style with limited effectiveness; limited awareness of the writing rules and paragraph organization; limited descriptions,	Limited command of the conventions multiple errors demonstrating minimal control over language; multiple distracting errors

				<p>sensory details, linking or transitional words, words to indicate tone, or domain-specific vocabulary.</p>	<p>sometimes impede understanding.</p>
2	<p>Mostly accurate textual analysis; cited textual evidence; basic comprehension of ideas expressed in the text(s).</p>	<p>Some development of the claims: some reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description; somewhat appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.</p>	<p>Some coherence, clarity, &/or cohesion; introduction, conclusion, and logically grouped ideas; progression of ideas discernible but not obvious.</p>	<p>Establishes & maintains mostly effective style; attends to norms & conventions of writing and paragraph organization; uses some precise language, including descriptive words & phrases, sensory details, linking & transitional words, words to indicate tone and/or domain-specific vocabulary.</p>	<p>Inconsistent command of conventions; errors occasionally impede understanding.</p>
3	<p>Accurate textual analysis; cites textual evidence to support the analysis; extensive</p>	<p>Effective development of the claim, topic and/or narrative elements; clear reasoning,</p>	<p>Great deal of coherence, clarity, & cohesion; introduction,</p>	<p>Establishes & maintains effective style; attends to norms & conventions of</p>	<p>Few distracting errors in grammar and usage; but meaning is</p>

	comprehension of ideas expressed in the text(s).	details, text-based evidence, and/or description; largely appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	conclusion, and a logical progression of ideas; fairly easy to follow progression of ideas.	writing and paragraph organization; uses mostly precise language, including descriptive words & phrases, sensory details, linking & transitional words, words to indicate tone, and/or domain-specific vocabulary.	clear.
4	Accurate textual analysis; cites convincing textual evidence as support; full comprehension of complex ideas expressed in the text(s).	Effective & comprehensive development of claim/topic/narrative elements; clear and convincing reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description; appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	Purposeful coherence, clarity, & cohesion; strong introduction, conclusion; logical, well-executed progression of ideas; easy to follow. progression of ideas.	Establishes & maintains an effective style; attends to norms & conventions of discipline/writing and paragraph organization; consistently precise language consistently, including descriptive words & phrases, sensory details, linking & transitional words, words to indicate tone,	Few minor errors in grammar and usage; meaning is clear throughout.

				and/or domain-specific vocabulary.	
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