

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading and Journal Assignment

Choose one of the books listed below for your summer reading. Each is listed here with a short summary to aid you in your choice. As you read, you will be completing any 6 of the journal prompts below. These entries should be between twelve and fifteen sentences in length and should include examples from the text to support your answers and opinions. They may be typed or written on notebook paper and **will be collected for credit on the first day of school.**

Book choices-	<i>The Bean Trees: A Novel</i>	by Barbara Kingsolver
	<i>The Hoopster</i>	by Alan Lawrence Sitomer
	<i>Monster</i>	by Walter Dean Myers
	<i>Speak</i>	by Laurie Halse Anderson

**FICTION PROMPTS** Choose any SIX from the following:

1. • What genre, or category, of literature does your book fall under? (Fiction genres include historical fiction, realistic fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and coming-of-age.)
2. • Make a connection (text-to-self, text-to-world, text-to-text). Explain the context (what is happening in the book) of the text and describe the connection you have made.
3. • Choose a significant passage (between one sentence and one paragraph) that reveals the book's theme, or central message. Record the passage and page number, and explain how it relates to the theme.
4. • Create a glossary for your book that includes difficult words and unfamiliar allusions. List the term, the page number where it appears, and an explanation for each. Be sure to consider the context of the term when choosing a definition or description.
5. • Why do you think the author chose the title he/she did? Analyze its deeper meaning. If it is an obvious title, rename it something more symbolic and explain your rationale.
6. • From whose point of view is the story told? What other voices could tell the story? Be sure to explain how the story would be different from this other, new perspective.

7. • What is the main problem/obstacle/mystery that the characters/people must overcome/solve? How was this problem resolved? Was this a satisfactory conclusion?
8. • Do you think the characters/people and their problems/decisions/relationships are believable/realistic? Why or why not?
9. • How is your book structured/organized? How does the way the author structures his/her book affect the story and your appreciation of the book?
10. • For your book, what is more important, the characters or the plot? Was the plot moved forward by the decisions of the characters or were the characters at the mercy of the plot? How did it affect your enjoyment of the book?
11. • Comment on the author's style and use of language. Is it effective or ineffective? Does it add to or detract from your enjoyment of the book?
12. • Guess why the author included some things in the book and left other things out. What would you have added or omitted? Why?
13. • Choose a character and explain the psychology behind his/her choices. How is this character affected by the environment, the ways other people see him/her, and the ways he/she sees himself/herself?
14. • Are there any particularly vivid images that stand out? What effect do these images have on the writers' purpose?
15. • Does the writer use devices of humor? Puns? Irony? Sarcasm? Understatement? Parody? How did these devices influence your enjoyment of the book?