

## **Statement on Book Selection and Objectionable Material**

The Runnels English faculty has as its first mission to teach novels that engage, inspire, inform, uplift, and above all educate our students. While our first consideration is always the merit of an assigned novel, sometimes those books could contain material that some may find objectionable. In fact, almost every classic novel has been challenged at some point, and modern books are even more frequently challenged because of objectionable content. As Runnels is a school that embraces those of many faiths, cultures, and value systems, content that is deemed to be offensive will vary from family to family. As educators, we have made every effort to give students choices in their summer reading assignments, as we understand that student engagement strongly correlates with the ability to have ownership over reading choices. Please be aware, however, that this list includes books with language, themes, or situations that some students or families may find offensive. Therefore, in the spirit of academic freedom, we leave it up to each student and his or her family to make the reading selections that best fit their unique value system and interests.

### **Summer Assignments**

Summer Reading is a long tradition in many schools including Runnels. Research has shown conclusively that continued reading over long breaks keeps students from falling behind in reading skills. Because students will be expected to retain key information from their summer reading, many teachers assign corresponding work to help students remember what they read and to provide guidance and scaffolding for how to read the book closely. These assignments are mandatory. All English teachers in Junior and Senior High will require summer assignments for the summer of 2017. Additional copies of the assignments will be available through a link the Runnels Web Page at [www.runnels.org](http://www.runnels.org). Teachers will be available (via email) over the summer to answer questions concerning their assignments. English teachers will also meet with currently enrolled students before the end of the 2016-2017 school year to discuss the requirements for these assignments. Students who are new to Runnels should contact the administration and/or Norma Marsh, Dept. Head, English and Social Studies, at [n.marsh@runnels.org](mailto:n.marsh@runnels.org) for more information. All students will be expected to have completed these assignments upon their return to school for the 2017-2018 school year.

### **AP Assignments**

Many AP classes require summer assignments. Please check the Advanced Placement Summer Assignment for each course for more information. For students who are new to Runnels in the 2017-2018 year, please contact the administration for more information concerning summer assignments. AP teachers will be available via email to answer any questions concerning summer assignments as well.

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12<sup>th</sup> Summer Reading  
Ms. Scalf  
English IV College Preparatory  
(2 books total)

All College Preparatory students will read TWO books:

Required Reading:

- *Eaters of the Dead*—Michael Crichton

Choose ONE of the following:

- *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*—Douglas Adams
- *Atonement*—Ian McEwan
- *The Casual Vacancy*—J.K. Rowling

Directions: Complete the following chart for **BOTH** of your summer reading books. These charts are due on Monday, August 21, 2017. I will accept late work; however, I will take 10% off the initial grade for each day it is late. Each chart is worth 40 points.

**The Basics**

Novel	
Author	
Year published	

**Plot Chart**

Basic Situation (What is the initial conflict or problem?)	
Rising Action (List at least five events— complications—that lead up to the climax of the story.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>
Climax (What is the turning point of the story? Remember, the climax is not always the most exciting part of the novel.)	
Falling Action (List three things that lead up to the resolution.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
Resolution (How is the conflict resolved?)	

### Elements of Literature

Identify and discuss at least one symbol in the novel.	
Identify and discuss at least one example of irony (situational, dramatic, or verbal) in the novel.	
Identify and discuss one of the following: foreshadowing, flashback, or allusion.	
Describe the setting for the novel. How does the setting influence the overall mood of the novel?	

### Overall Rating

Rate the novel on a scale of 1 (the lowest) to 10 (the highest). Explain your rating (at least 75 words).

**Super Important Quotes**

Quote	Speaker	Importance

Choose **ONE** of the following projects to complete for **ONE** of the novels you read for summer reading. This project is worth 75 points. I will accept late work; however, I will take 10% off the initial grade for each day it is late.

**Option 1: For the Music Lover**

Imagine your book is sold with a soundtrack. Your task is to create the soundtrack that accompanies your novel. Choose 10 songs that are a perfect fit for the soundtrack to your novel.

- List the artist and song title.
- For each song, write an explanation as to why that particular song fits the novel. In your discussion, explain which scene from the novel the song would best accompany. Each song explanation must be at least 40 words each. Therefore, the total word count will be 400 words.
- Also, create an illustrated album cover to accompany your soundtrack.

**Option 2: For the Comic Con Lover in You**

Create a comic book version of your novel. Your comic must

- be at least four pages long with at least 9 square per page (for a grand total of 36 squares)
- contain word bubbles with dialogue
- contain text to explain the plot
- be illustrated (color is optional)

**Option 3: For the Song Writers**

Rewrite the plot of your novel as a song (or a rap). Your song/rap

- must be at least 400 words long
- must NOT have a chorus that simply repeats to take up space
- does have to rhyme (choose your own rhyme scheme)

**Option 4: For the Kid in You**

Create a children's book version of your novel. Your children's book

- must span the entire plot of the original novel (omit minor details)
- should be written in kid-friendly language
- must be illustrated (color is option)
- must contain dialogue (or work bubbles)
- must be at least 250 words long (yes, that includes your word bubbles)

**Extra Credit**

Do you want to get this quarter kicked off the right way? Complete an additional project for the other novel you read for 20 extra credit points. Yes, you may repeat the same project.

Feel free to contact me at [r.scalf@runnels.org](mailto:r.scalf@runnels.org) if you have any questions.