

Incoming Freshmen Honors  
Summer Reading Requirements 2018

There are two reading requirements for incoming freshmen taking Honors Introduction to Literature. One is Ruth Sepetys' *Between Shades of Gray*; the second is Garth Stein's *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. You **must** purchase a paper copy of the text for use in class when we return in August. Please do not rely on borrowing from the library for this or an e-book. In the following document, there are various required assignments. Please read all directions carefully.

All work will be handed in on or before August 27, 2018. All work must be typed using Times New Roman text, 12 pt. font and double spacing. A heading should appear at the top of the first page and be formatted as indicated below. A title should follow, centered on the next line and contain the information necessary to determine which activity follows.

Student first and last name

Mrs. Euclide

Introduction to Literature 109-01

27 August 2018

Your final packet should contain writing assignments for *Between Shades of Gray* and for *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. These can be placed on the same page, but should be labeled.

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*Between Shades of Gray*  
Ruta Sepetys

Sepetys' first novel offers a harrowing and horrifying account of the forcible relocation of countless Lithuanians in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country in 1939. In the case of 16-year-old Lina, her mother, and her younger brother, this means deportation to a forced-labor camp in Siberia, where conditions are all too painfully similar to those of Nazi concentration camps. Lina's great hope is that somehow her father, who has already been arrested by the Soviet secret police, might find and rescue them. A gifted artist, she begins secretly creating pictures that can--she hopes--be secretly sent to him in his own prison camp. Whether or not this will be possible, it is her art that will be her salvation, helping her to retain her identity, her dignity, and her increasingly tenuous hold on hope for the future. Many others are not so fortunate. Sepetys, the daughter of a Lithuanian refugee, estimates that the Baltic States lost more than one-third of their populations during the Russian genocide. Though many continue to deny this happened, Sepetys' beautifully written and deeply felt novel proves the reality is otherwise.

Before Reading: Please go to the following website and view the short video found there (less than 12 minutes in length).

<https://www.tes.com/lessons/gTy7EHY0Dmsfsg/between-shades-of-gray-by-ruta-sepetys>

During Reading: As you are reading, identify five parts of the text that are meaningful in some way. Maybe they resonate with you personally; maybe they remind you of another book you have read in the past; maybe you like the way the words “sound” when they roll around in your head. Simply mark the pages with a post-it note so that we can discuss them when we return in August. You may also want to jot down the reason you had for choosing each passage so that you do not forget when we get to class discussion.

After Reading: Complete the two tasks below:

1. In an extended paragraph of approximately 150-200 words, answer the following question. This refers to the obvious physical challenges, but also to the mental, emotional, and spiritual ones as well.

Would you have survived?

2. Look up the artwork of Edvard Munch. A quick google search will provide what you need. (*The Scream* is one of his most famous.) Find a lesser known painting that connects to the text or a character in some way and print it out (black and white is fine). (You may want to jot down a sentence or two on the back so that you don't forget why you chose the piece when you bring it to class with you in August.)
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*The Art of Racing in the Rain*  
Garth Stein

In Garth Stein's touching story, the appealing narrator is a dog named Enzo, who (of course) cannot communicate as he'd like to, by talking with his family. Instead, he pours his considerable heart and spirit into this book, sharing his experiences and reflections with readers. Although Enzo is frustrated with his limitations as a canine, he comforts himself with the fact that, according to a documentary he watched about Mongolia (Enzo is a dedicated television viewer), he will be reincarnated as a human. He knows a lot about being a human after watching his master Denny Swift, who is a hero to him.

Before Reading: In one to two sentences, answer the following: How much do you think animals truly know about what it is to be human?

During Reading: With post-it notes, mark 5 passages in the text that touched you, whether because of the plot, the thoughts of the narrator, or the beauty of Stein's language. Make sure you jot down your reason for choosing each passage on the post-it so that you do not forget when we return to school in August

After Reading: Answer the following in a short paragraph (5-8 sentences): What is the most important thing this text teaches you about life? Make sure that you not only note the lesson as well as examples from the text to support your thoughts.

## **Questions I Had While Reading**

This section is optional in case you had any questions on either work while you were reading. Jot down your questions here. I helps to note the page number, so it is an easy reference for your class and your teacher.