

**HIGHLAND SCHOOL
2011 SUMMER READING
RISING EIGHTH GRADE**

Guidelines:

Students should read **two (2)** books from those listed below. On the first day of school, students will write a detailed answer in more than one paragraph to one of the following questions. While students are encouraged to brainstorm responses to the questions during the summer, they may not bring notes to class.

This written response to the summer reading will count as one (1) quiz grade.

Questions:

- Compare the main characters in the two books; how are they the same? (Think of personality traits more than just physical traits.) Give specific examples.
- Contrast the main characters in the two books; how are they different? (Again, think of personality traits more than physical traits.) Give specific examples.
- Describe a major internal conflict (involving an important decision) that the main character in each book faces. How are they similar?
- Describe a major external conflict (involving an outside force—another person, society, or nature) that the main character in each book faces. How are they similar?
- Theme is the central message an author communicates through a literary work. Compare or contrast the themes of the two books.

Books: (Choose TWO)

Annotations provided by Follett Destiny.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. The adventures and pranks of a mischievous boy growing up in a Mississippi River town in the early nineteenth century.

The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank. Anne Frank's personal narrative of life in Amsterdam during the Jewish Holocaust.

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes. After being mentally retarded for all of his thirty-two years, Charlie Gordon undergoes an operation that changes his life dramatically.

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson. Sixteen-year-old Hattie Brooks inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana in 1917 and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war in Europe.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.

They Cage the Animals at Night by Jennings Michael Burch. An autobiographical account of how Jennings Burch spent several years as a child in and out of orphanages and foster homes, this is the story of how he grew up and gained the courage to reach out for love.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson. While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune.