Overview:
The Mile High Academy Summer Reading Program is designed to keep students' reading skills sharp over the summer. This will help them dive straight into fall semester English courses and improve fall test scores, which typically suffer after the summer break.

Facts:
- Research indicates that student achievement in reading dips over the summer (Cooper 2003; McGill-Frazen & Allington 2012).
- A meta-analysis conducted by Cooper et al. (1996) found the average student lost the equivalent of 1 month of a grade-level during the summer when reading and math scores were combined (Gordon 2008).
- Conversely, students who read during the summer, particularly if they read 4 or more books, test significantly better than their peers who do not read during the summer (Kim 2004).

Contact Information:
Should you have any questions or concerns about the summer reading program, please feel free to contact me. I may be out of touch at times as I am relocating to the Denver area, but I will return your message as soon as possible.

Jenni Eno
jeno@milehighacademy.org

In addition, look for Facebook announcements with summer hours when I will be available to work face-to-face with students.

Assignment:
1. Choose one book to read from the list below (that you have not previously read) and complete the corresponding assignment. Free digital versions of some of the books are available as they are past applicable copyright dates. The other books are available at your local library.
2. Read two other books of your choosing and complete the attached forms.
*All assignments are due on the first day of school. Please be prepared and make this a great start to the year.

9th Grade
Title: *Farewell to Manzanar*
Authors: Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston & James Houston
Description: This memoir is about the Japanese Wakatsuki family who were living in California when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Although 8 year-old Jeanne Wakatsuki was born in California and identified more closely with American culture than Japanese culture, she still found herself swept up in the Japanese-American relocation program that resulted from the fear that gripped the country. Jeanne and her family spent three years imprisoned at Manzanar before a Supreme Court ruling forced the relocation camps to close. During her time at Manzanar, Jeanne, out of place both among Japanese and Americans, had to come to grips with her own identity amid harsh prison-like conditions.
Assignment: Prejudice and fear often go hand-in-hand. Find 10 quotes in the book that illustrate this point. For each quote, write 2-3 sentences explaining the significance of the quote and how it shows the relationship between prejudice and fear.

Title: *The Diary of Anne Frank*
Author: Anne Frank
Description: Many students may have already read *The Diary of Anne Frank*, but I am including it on this list because it is one of those books that everyone should read at least once. If you have not yet read it, this is a good opportunity. The memoir is an account of a young Jewish girl's experiences in hiding during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands during WWII. Anne Frank matures throughout the book from a frivolous 13 year-old to a young woman of 15 who better understands the tragedies of war, the good and evil within society, and her own character.
Assignment: Personal tragedy often spurs growth within individuals. Find 10 quotes in the book that illustrate some sort of growth that Anne Frank experienced. For each quote, write 2-3 sentences explaining the significance of the quote and how it shows Frank's growth.
Title: *Anne of Green Gables*
Author: Lucy Montgomery
Description: Set on picturesque Prince Edward Island, this novel is about an orphan girl who finds herself adopted by a rather unlikely pair. Anne's vivid imagination and zeal for adventure lead her to experience many humorous misfortunes that teach her about life and ultimately help her to love herself and her make-shift family, flaws and all.

Assignment: Anne's vocabulary is perhaps the only thing bigger than her imagination. Choose 20 words from the book that are new to you, use a dictionary to define the words, and then write your own sentence using the word appropriately. In addition, choose 5 quotes from the book and in 2-3 sentences explain how the quotes illustrate a truth about life.

Title: *Oliver Twist*
Author: Charles Dickens
Description: Oliver is a charismatic orphan living in Victorian London. He manages to escape the cruel workhouse where he was born only to find himself an unwilling partner in a band of thieves. Oliver's adventures take him through many twists and turns, but his goodness eventually helps him beat the odds.

Assignment: During the Victoria era, most people believed that poverty and sin were intricately related. Essentially, the poor were bad from birth and experienced poverty as punishment for their evil nature. Wealth, on the other hand, was viewed as a sign of God's favor. Find 10 quotes in the book that indicate that Dickens disagrees with this view. For each quote, write 2-3 sentences explaining the significance of the quote and how it shows Dickens' alternate view.

10th Grade
Title: *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
Author: Frederick Douglass
Description: Frederick Douglass was born a slave circa 1818. In this rare, first-hand account of slavery from a slave's perspective, Douglass reveals much about the cruelty and hypocrisy of slavery. Though the book's primary goal is to shine a light on the dark secrets of American slavery, the book also contains many life lessons on the value of education, perseverance, and human decency.

Assignment: According to Douglass, Christianity had a negative effect on slave owners because they felt that their actions towards slaves were justified. In one paragraph each (three paragraphs total), address the following:

1. Douglass clearly sees conflict between his understanding of Christianity and the behavior of Christian slave owners in his life. According to Douglass, what are the characteristics of a true Christian? Use at least two quotes to support your position.
2. Describe the actions of the "Christian" slave owners who Douglass encounters.
3. Although nearly all Christians today believe that slavery is wrong, many still use the Bible to justify prejudice or cruel behavior towards certain people groups. What groups of people do some Christians mistreat in our contemporary society?

*Note: We will turn these paragraphs into a five-paragraph essay during the first week of school.*
**Title:** Little Women  
**Author:** Louisa May Alcott  
**Description:** This is the story of four poor sisters trying to get along the best they can while their father serves as a Union chaplain in the Civil War. Like all siblings they experience their share of fun adventures and feuds. Life gets more complicated as the girls mature, seek to find their own unique identities, and experience the joy and heartache associated with falling in love.  
**Assignment:** Some of the most interesting aspects of this book are the twists and turns associated with the girls' love lives. Analyze whether or not Meg, Jo, and Amy marry the right person. Write one paragraph on each girl for a total of three paragraphs. Consider things like the characters' personalities, life goals, morals, and ethics.

*Note: We will turn these paragraphs into a five-paragraph essay during the first week of school.*

**Title:** The Red Badge of Courage  
**Author:** Stephen Crane  
**Description:** Everyone wants to be a hero, including Henry, the protagonist of The Red Badge of Courage. Set during the Civil War, this novel explores the topic of courage. Henry joined the Union army seeking glory. As the novel progresses, Henry's definition of glory changes as does he, overcoming his own desire for self-preservation in order to find his self-worth.  
**Assignment:** Write a one paragraph response (three paragraphs total) to each of the following questions:  
1. Use your inference skills to determine how Henry would define glory at the end of the book? How is this different from his original definition of glory?  
2. In your opinion, did Henry achieve glory? Use at least two quotes to support your answer.  
3. In contemporary society, what are some negative ways that people attempt to gain glory? What are some better, more meaningful ways to become a hero? Finally, what personal characteristics, such as courage, allow someone to become a hero?  

*Note: We will turn these paragraphs into a five-paragraph essay during the first week of school.*
Title: *Jane Eyre*
Author: Charlotte Brontë
Description: This gothic novel centers on Jane Eyre, an orphan who endures many hardships throughout her childhood. Because of her early experiences, she craves two things: independence and love. Jane eventually gains some independence as a governess, but in a cruel twist of fate she secretly falls in love with Rochester, her wealthy employer. Though Jane is Rochester's intellectual equal, she is very aware of her own lack of beauty, money, and social status. Can she maintain her identity, independence, and moral compass in a relationship with a powerful man like Rochester? It may not matter, for he is hiding a dark secret that threatens far more than Jane's longings.
Assignment: In a five-paragraph essay, address the following:
   Explore the conflicting elements fire and ice within the work. With whom or what are the motifs associated? What do they represent? What message does Brontë express through them? Use a minimum of five short quotes associated with fire and five short quotes associated with ice within your essay.

Title: *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
Author: Baroness Emmuska Orczy
Description: This action-packed novel is set during the French Revolution in a period known as the Reign of Terror. The protagonist, Sir Percy, lives under a carefully developed persona when in England, acting as a lethargic dimwit around his wealthy social circle. In reality, Sir Percy is the famous Scarlet Pimpernel, known for using his wit, charisma, and swordsmanship to rescue French aristocrats condemned to die by the guillotine.
Assignment: While the Scarlet Pimpernel is clearly the hero of this story, he poses an ethical dilemma. Historically, the French revolutionaries sought to overthrow what was essentially a feudal system in France prior to the late 1700's. Under that system, many poor starved to death, while the aristocrats lived in opulence. Although the revolutionaries’ indiscriminate murder of the aristocrats by guillotine was brutal, far more poor serfs died over the centuries serving cruel aristocratic families. This brings us to the Scarlet Pimpernel, a wealthy baron who thwarted the laws set in place by the revolutionaries in order to save the lives of the rich oppressors they sought to overthrow. In a five-paragraph essay, address the following:
   Is one ever justified in breaking rules/laws? If yes, what criteria determine when such justification exists? Was the Scarlet Pimpernel justified in his behavior? Why or why not? Use at least five short quotes to support your position.
Title: *Songs of Innocence and Experience*
Author: William Blake

**Description:** Blake's collection of poems is sure to make readers think deeply about Christian themes and social issues of historical import. Interestingly, Blake often paired poems, writing on the same topic from the different perspectives of innocence and experience. For example, "The Lamb" and "The Tyger" explore different images of God as creator, whereas the two poems entitled "The Chimney Sweeper" look at the issue of child labor during the Industrial Revolution.

**Assignment:** Write a five-paragraph essay comparing and contrasting a set of paired poems of your choosing from the collection. Address how the perspectives of innocence vs. experience change the message of the poems. In doing so, consider similarities and differences in language, content, and style. After analyzing the poems separately, look at them as two halves of a whole. What do you think their combined message is to the audience?

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**12th Grade**

Title: *Pilgrim's Progress*
Author: John Bunyan

**Description:** Considered one of the greatest works of English literature, this allegory follows Christian on his journey out of the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. Along the way, Christian faces many obstacles such as the Valley of the Shadow of Death, the Giant Despair, and Vanity Fair. The book, an interesting read even at face-value, becomes deeply thought-provoking when viewed from the perspective of our own personal spiritual journeys.

**Assignment:** Write a five-paragraph essay discussing the obstacles from *Pilgrim's Progress* that you personally believe are the most difficult to overcome in your life. First, briefly describe how Christian faces the obstacles you have chosen. Then, delve into the allegorical significance of each encounter. Finally, apply the message to your own life.

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Title: *The Canterbury Tales*
Author: Geoffrey Chaucer

**Description:** Geoffrey Chaucer is known as the father of English poetry. His major work, *The Canterbury Tales*, is a landmark book partly because it is one of the first books ever written in English and because it is written primarily as a poem in iambic pentameter. The book was originally written in Middle English during the late 14th century, and while it is possible for today's readers to decipher the original text, I recommend a modern translation. The book consists of a series of stories narrated by archetypical people of the time period such as a knight, priest, plowman, etc. The book opens with an introduction to the characters and, in many cases, their deep flaws. Each of the stories is a parable with little nuggets of spiritual wisdom, though often part of the message lies in the irony of the story-teller's character.

**Assignment:** In a five-paragraph essay, discuss the message of three of the tales contained within *The Canterbury Tales*. How was the message pertinent to readers of Chaucer's time period and how do they apply to readers today?
Name ___________________________  Class ___________________

Free Reading Assignment #1

Title:

Author:

Three pertinent quotes from the text:

A.

B.

C.

Write a 2-3 sentence explanation of the meaning and importance of the above quotes.

A.

B.

C.

Write a one paragraph (6-8 sentences long) summary of the book.

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Free Reading Assignment #2

Title:

Author:

Three pertinent quotes from the text:

A.

B.

C.

Write a 2-3 sentence explanation of the meaning and importance of the above quotes.

A.

B.

C.

Write a one paragraph (6-8 sentences long) summary of the book.

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