

## OLS SUMMER 2011 TACHS ASSIGNMENT: INCOMING 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

(PLEASE DO NOT MAKE MARKINGS IN THE BOOK – WE WILL USE THESE EXERCISES AGAIN)

### VERBAL SKILLS:

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|--|---------------------|
| 1. SYNONYMS ( <i>Chapter 7</i> )                             | READ pgs. 61 - 64   |
| 2. READING ( <i>Chapter 11</i> )                             | READ pgs. 103 - 105 |
| 3. SPELLING ( <i>Chapter 12</i> )                            | READ pgs. 127 - 130 |
| 4. PUNCTUATION & CAPITALIZATION ( <i>Chapter 13</i> )        | READ pgs. 135 - 143 |
| 5. ENGLISH USAGE ( <i>Chapter 14</i> )                       | READ pgs. 147 - 152 |
| 6. LANGUAGE COMPOSITION AND EXPRESSION ( <i>Chapter 15</i> ) | READ pgs. 165 - 167 |

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### IMPORTANT TIPS for TACHS BOOK:

1. BE SURE TO **READ** THE OVERVIEW FOR EACH SECTION – IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND AND KNOW THE RULES OF ALL THE VERBAL SKILLS SECTIONS. **YOU WILL BE GIVEN A DIAGNOSTIC TACHS TEST DURING THE 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK OF SCHOOL.**

## OLS SUMMER 2011 NOVEL READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS: INCOMING 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes [1<sup>st</sup> project]
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry [2<sup>nd</sup> project]
- *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton [3<sup>rd</sup> project]

### BOOK REPORT FORMATS (choose ONE format for each book):

- Flowers for Algernon Choices:

- 1) Diorama: Use a small box (shoebox size) to create a 3-dimensional miniature scene in which characters, animals, and objects are arranged in a setting pertaining to the book. Include a written description of the scene.
- 2) Create a poem about the book or a character. Your poem should be at least 100 words long.
- 3) Create a timeline showing a chain of important events from the book.
- 4) Story Board: [A storyboard records the significant events with pictures.] The storyboard should contain a minimum of ten boxes. Each box needs to contain a picture or symbol for the main event (colored) and a paragraph explanation under the box.

- The Giver Choices:

- 1) Draw and color a professional-looking comic strip representing your favorite scene. Write dialogue for your characters. It must be on large, white paper or ½ a poster board and must be Sunday length (6-8 squares).
- 2) Invent a diary which might be written by Jonas or the Giver. Include thoughts and incidents that took place in the life of that character. Write a minimum of five days of entries. Design it to look like an actual diary.
- 3) Choose three "lessons" to be learned from this book. Explain your choices. [Two pages, typed, double spaced]

- 4) "In Order"

Make a chart showing the hierarchy of the community in which Jonas lived. Be sure to include **all** the different "Assignments" that people have as well as The Receiver and Committee of Elders. Add any roles you think might exist but aren't specified in the story. [1/2 a poster, with illustrations]

• **The Outsiders Choices:**

1) Design a front-page of a newspaper that is devoted entirely to “The Outsiders”. It needs to have the following elements: a title, 3 articles with pictures, using the following headlines for each article: *What makes a hero? What is true friendship? How can we look beyond differences and find community?* The articles should explain the major events from the book, relating to the article headlines, and using details and quotes from the book. The newspaper project should be the size and shape of a real newspaper.

2) Research the culture of the 1960s and create a collage illustrating the trends, major “happenings”, etc. in relation to the book.

3) Choose a quotation from a character. Write an essay explaining why it would or wouldn't be a good motto by which to live your life. [One page, typed, double spaced]

4) Song Analyses

Background:

*In the novel, S. E. Hinton distinguishes different groups of characters by associating them with musicians of the time and how they relate to the novel's main characters. For example, she relates The Beatles to the Socs, Hank Williams, Sr. to the Greasers, etc.*

Select TWO songs, listen to the songs, and answer the following:

- “*I'm So Lonesome, I Could Cry*” recorded by Hank Williams, Sr. Discuss how this song might relate to the theme of discrimination/alienation in *The Outsiders*, specifically concerning the Greasers.
- “*Two of Us*” recorded by The Beatles. Discuss how this song might relate to the theme of friendship in *The Outsiders*, specifically concerning Ponyboy and Johnny.
- “*A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*” recorded by Bob Dylan. Discuss this song in relation to *The Outsiders*. Would the Socs or the Greasers relate to this song?
- “*My Generation*” recorded by The Who. Discuss this song in relation to *The Outsiders*. Would the Socs or the Greasers relate to this song?

[Lyrics to these songs are to be submitted with each essay explaining how the songs relate to the themes and to *The Outsiders*. You can create a poster including the song lyrics and your essays, along with pictures, drawings, etc. [Essay – one page typed, double spaced paper.]

**Grades for each project are based on the following criteria:**

Content	(25 pts.) -	Facts, details, quotations are correct.
Quality	(25 pts.) -	Projects are neatly done and <b>effort is shown</b> .
Creativity	(25 pts.) -	Color and imagination is evident.
Directions	(25 pts.) -	<b>All</b> components of each project are complete.

**Check for grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation.**

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\*Please Note: The novel reading projects are worth 100% each – your first 3 grades in Reading towards the 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester Report Card.

**READING PROJECTS ARE DUE THE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup> DAYS OF SCHOOL (1<sup>st</sup> project – day 1, etc.)**