

Honors 9th Grade Literature (91A & ISA 91A) Summer Reading Assignment 2024

Read the novel *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys and complete parts 1 and 2 below.

Part 1: Thematic topic exploration through text evidence and annotations

You will NOT turn these annotations in as part of your grade, but they will be necessary for completion of Part 2 and for our in-class activities.

As you read the novel *Between Shades of Gray*, consider the following thematic topics (see below 1-9) explored in Lina's forced journey from her native Lithuania to a labor camp in Siberia.

Choose **three thematic topics** from the list below on which to focus your reading. Using a pen, highlighter, and/or sticky note, find **5 quotations** (also known as text evidence) which support each of your three thematic topics. Write your ideas as notes or annotations in either the margins of your book or on a sticky note in the book that explain how or why the text evidence supports the thematic topics you are addressing. Your book should have at least **15 pieces of text evidence with supporting annotations addressing three thematic topics spaced equally throughout the novel.**

We will use these pieces of text evidence and annotations in class for discussion and to complete further writing activities.

Thematic topics for *Between Shades of Gray*:

Choose any three of the nine thematic topics below. Then locate five examples of text evidence in support of each of the three thematic topics. Finally, write annotations as to "how" or "why" the text evidence supports the thematic topic. In order to complete successfully Part 1 of the summer reading assignment, fifteen pieces of text evidence with supporting written annotations are required.

1. Morality
2. Personal Integrity
3. Quest for home
4. Identity
5. Courage
6. Sacrifice
7. Family
8. Growing up
9. Survival

Part 2: Writing

DUE Friday, August 2, 2024

You will submit your writing in class through Turnitin.com

Choose **one** short answer question below to answer. Type the response double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font. Please remember that you must turn in **original work**; do not copy from the internet (including AI) or copy from another person's work. You will sign an **honor code** for this assignment before submitting it in class on Friday, August 2, through **Turnitin.com** for plagiarism and AI detection. Your teacher will explain the honor code and submission process to Turnitin.com on the first day of school.

Short Answer Questions: Choose **one** writing prompt below for your short answer typed response. Refer to the Part 1 assignment to assist your writing.

1. Choose a specific instance in Lina's journey and a supporting thematic topic to suggest how she develops in light of the thematic topic. For instance, write about how Lina develops as a result of a specific courageous decision she makes.
2. Sepetys explores the idea of morality through various characters in *Between Shades of Gray*. Choose one moment in which a character has to make a difficult moral decision. Discuss how the character develops due to this experience.
3. Throughout her journey, Lina experiences various types of loss. Choose one moment of loss during Lina's journey and discuss how Lina changes or develops because of this loss.
4. In *Between Shades of Gray*, different characters must make sacrifices. Choose a character who makes a sacrifice and discuss how that character changes or develops as a result.

Your short answer typed response should include the following:

1. Write the prompt you are answering at the top of the paper.
2. Indent and write a thesis sentence which answers the prompt you chose considering the novel as a whole. This sentence stands alone. You do not need to write a full introduction paragraph.
3. Below the thesis sentence, indent and write one well-developed body paragraph which builds support for the thesis. Organize your paragraph as follows:
 - An indented topic sentence opens the paragraph and provides a specific focus for the paragraph.
 - Include one strong piece of text evidence (possibly from your Part 1 notes and annotations) that supports the claim sentence. Be sure to include a lead-in *before* the text evidence and parenthetical citation *after* the text evidence. Refer to the example below:

- Example: Elena makes great sacrifices to ensure her children’s safety, even giving up her beloved pocket watch that “was her father’s and had his name engraved in the soft gold on the back” (Sepetys 27).

- Create a minimum of two analytical sentences that suggest “how” or “why” the text evidence supports the thesis. Do not simply paraphrase the text evidence as your analysis.
- Finish your analysis with a concluding sentence.
- See an example from the novel *Refugee* below the rubric.

Summer Rubric 2024

Student Name _____

Worth: One Quiz Grade

Quiz Grade out of 100 points		Points Earned
Content (60 points)	-Details, clues, and evidence come together to develop a clear impression of the significance of the event -Evidence of reflection and investigation into the incident/event	
Clarity/Conventions/Format (20 points)	-Thesis and paragraph are clearly written with few minor mistakes that do not interfere with reader’s understanding. -A lead-in introduces the text evidence into the paragraph and a correct citation follows the text evidence.	.
Organization (20 points)	-Topic sentence sets the focus for the paragraph -Text evidence introduced -Meaningful analysis follows the text evidence -The paragraph has a finished feel	
Total		_____/100

Honor Code Reminder: Summer reading assignments must be completed individually and without the use of unauthorized online sources (including AI) or study aids. Students will submit their work on Turnitin.com which detects plagiarism and AI involvement. Students who commit an infraction of the Honor Code will receive a grade of zero on the assignment, an N in conduct for this semester in Honors 9th Grade Literature, and an administrative referral.

Example below from the novel *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

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9th Honors English, Period 2

2 August 2022

Prompt 2: The Loss of a Father

In the novel *Refugee* by Alan Gratz, Josef Landau's loss of his father, both physically and emotionally, causes him to mature as he makes new realizations and takes on new responsibilities.

Josef's physical loss of his father occurs when Aaron Landau is taken from their home by the Nazis during Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, forcing Josef to mature as his father is gone. Josef, his mother, and Ruthie buy tickets on a train where they are forced to wear bright yellow armbands with the Star of David, a marker to identify traveling Jews. Josef begins to realize that these armbands "were like magical talismans that made them disappear" (Gratz 18). Josef struggles with the new understanding that the Nazis on the train do not see him or his family as German. The Nazis view his family as subhuman. Josef begins to confront the fact that simply being Jewish strips individuals of their identity. Although Joseph tries to throw away the armband in order to roam freely about the train, he realizes that this immature act of rebellion could cause the removal of his family from the train. Without his father there for guidance, Josef no longer has an advisor or guardian. Josef learns that he must leave behind childish desires if he is to step into the role of protector for his family in his father's absence.