



上海七宝德怀特高级中学

SHANGHAI QIBAO DWIGHT HIGH SCHOOL

### **Summer Reading Experience**

Dear future student,

Welcome to your first summer reading experience at Shanghai Qibao Dwight High School! Our hope is that you will use this summer vacation to grow and expand your mind in many new ways. One of the best ways for you to prepare for study in a second language is to read. There are several benefits to participating in this summer reading program; you will:

- Feel encouraged in your language study and more confident about your preparedness for your first year of high school.
- Have more background knowledge of the language and culture you are studying, which can lead to more interesting conversations in English!
- Understand that learning is a lifelong process (even in summer) and take responsibility for your own learning.

Below is a **reading assignment** to be completed before orientation begins. Before, during, and after your reading, you will respond in writing to the text you are reading (**Reader's Response Journal**). Responding to the text is important because it can:

- Help you solidify any information you have gained from a reading session, acting as a place for summary.
- Help you organize your thoughts in analyzing the text, which will be shared in group discussions during orientation.
- Help you formulate an opinion about open-ended questions related to the text.

On the following pages you will find journal prompts that you will need to respond to throughout the reading of the text. Please preview these and follow the instructions carefully because some journal entries are for before, during, and/or after reading.

I hope you enjoy this reading experience and take it as an opportunity to expand your knowledge and to help you become a better critical thinker, but not only as just an assignment to complete. Please consider reading even more after you have finished all of your required reading and responded. I look forward to hearing you share your thoughts and opinions at orientation.

Have a great summer!

Mr. Kennedy

## Summer Reading Assignment

### Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

(ISBN: 978-0547577098)

**Synopsis:** "As the German troops begin their campaign to 'relocate' all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family takes in Annemarie's best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war."

**Note:** This book can be purchased at all online retailers within China; however, if you find it difficult to find a paperback version of the book, you can also purchase the e-book version from websites, such as Taobao, Amazon China, and Dangdang.

All of the information listed in this document can be found on my class website:

<http://kennedyenglishclass.weebly.com/>

### Reading Strategies to Use:

#### **Reading Strategy:** *Chunking the Text*

Before you read a longer text, you should break it up into manageable pieces so as not to overwhelm yourself. Draw lines in the book! Work with each piece individually and try to focus on that one section.

#### **Reading Strategy:** *Writing in the margins*

Many Chinese learners of English simply underline words and write Mandarin translations above unfamiliar words. This is not enough to help you understand the text. After you have "chunked" the text, you should begin to respond to the text WHILE you read. A good strategy I use is writing in the margins. We will do this more in class, so if you don't understand quite how to do it yet, it's okay. In the left margin, write what the author is saying. This is a place to summarize important events in the story. Answer the question: **what just happened in the story?** In the right margin, write what the author is doing. This is where you make comments (analyze) the author's work. Answer the question: **what is the author trying to accomplish in this part?**

**Reader's Response Journal #1**  
*Building Background*

BEFORE reading the novel (having read 0% of the text), you should do a little research and build your understanding of the subject matter.

1. Do an internet search of the following key terms: Holocaust, Nazism, Gestapo, concentration camps (e.g. Auschwitz, Dachau, etc.), Victor Frankl (*Man's Search for Meaning*), Elie Weisel (*Night*), Adolf Hitler (*Mein Kampf*), Jews, Judaism, Torah, Talamud, monotheism. Write up a short summary of all of the important information learned from your prior reading (150-200 words)
2. Define the **genre** and **sub-genre** of the novel you are about to read (Example- Genre: Poetry, subgenre: haiku). If you are unfamiliar with the term, go back to the internet and do more research. Write up a list of features/ characteristics of the selected genre/sub-genre. (50-100 words) You will discuss in orientation how this novel fits those features of genre/sub-genre.

**Reader's Response Journal #2**  
*What is in a title?*

Complete this journal BEFORE or shortly after beginning reading the novel (having read 0-10% of the text.)

Authors choose titles to make the reader think about the book before it is read. Usually great time, effort, and consideration goes into the naming of a novel. Consider the title of the novel we are reading and answer the following questions (200-300 words):

- What is the title of the novel?
- The author makes a connection to another text. What is that text? What specific part of the text is the title taken from?
- Why do you think the author chose to name the novel this? Why is this title so significant?
- What can you predict about the connection between the title and the story?

**Reader's Response Journal #3**  
*Making Connections*

Complete this activity DURING your reading of the novel (having read 40-70% of the text).

Good readers make connections because all ideas are connected to something else. We can make connections in three ways: *text-to-self*, *text-to-text*, and *text-to-world*. For this response, you will *make at least one connection* of each kind (more connections are better). You can use the following sentence starters if you need help getting started (150-250 words):

- *(text-to-self)* An event in this novel reminds me of something that happened to me...
- *(text-to-text)* This novel reminds me of something else I have read...
- *(text-to-world)* The events that happen in this novel remind me of something that happened in the news recently...

**Reader's Response Journal #4**  
*Images from the Text*

This response is to be completed DURING or AFTER reading the novel (having read 50-100% of the text).

Good readers make mental images of the characters and events that happen in the story they are reading. This prompt requires you to describe what you are reading. Answer the following questions:

1. Choose a significant passage (between one sentence and one paragraph) that reveals the book's central message (theme). To figure out the central message, answer these questions: *What is this story really about? How does this apply to everyone? Is there a lesson to be learned from this story? Explain.* **OR** If you have difficulty finding the right passage, just choose a significant passage that you feel is important and explain why you think it is important. Use descriptions from the text. (150-200 words, NOT INCLUDING THE PASSAGE!)
2. Do you think the characters/people and their problems, decisions, and relationships are believable and/or realistic? Explain using descriptions from the text. (100-150 words)

**Reader's Response Journal #5**  
*Reflections*

This response is to be completed AFTER reading the novel (having read 100% of the text).

Good readers reflect on what they have read because it gives them an opportunity to let the material “sink in” their minds. Readers can use this opportunity to

- discuss with others (in person or online) and clear up any misunderstandings about the book
- share their favorite parts/characters
- agree or disagree with the ending of the novel, etc.

Use this response to reflect on what you have read. Talk with other people and read reviews of the book. This is a place for you to write your own review. You can use the following sentence starters if you need: (200-300 words)

- The part that made me think the most was...
- I agree/disagree with the ending because...
- I would/would not recommend this book to others because...