

ROSELLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING GUIDE
Grade 10

HONORS Level Students: Read Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*. Complete Modified Cornell Style Notes with at least 3 signposts per entry to go along with the book. Complete one page of notes per every 10 pages. This must be typed and submitted to turnitin.com in the fall.

ACADEMIC and COLLEGE PREP (CP) Level Students: This is an optional assignment. Choose one book from the list. Complete a double entry reading log. Hand it in to your English teacher and receive ten points extra credit on your first test. This is NOT a requirement!!

FICTION

The Great Santini by Pat Conroy

Synopsis: Ben Meecham is the son of Bull Meecham, a squadron leader and expert marine fighter-pilot who demands the best from everyone, especially his son. Bull dubs himself "the Great Santini," and his family must obey when "the Great Santini has spoken." Ben can never seem to live up to his father's inhuman standards, and Bull's unbending will dominates every aspect of family life. Ben endeavors to develop his own identity in the midst of a power struggle with his domineering and sometimes vulgar and abusive father. At times hilarious and heartbreaking, this novel presents life-like portraits of an over-the-top bully who sacrifices compassion for discipline, and a young man who develops qualities that his father could never hope to possess. Conroy won a Stanley W. Lindberg Award for Literary Contribution and was inducted into the Georgia Writer's Hall of Fame. The novel is a Random House recommendation for High School.

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Synopsis: Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, the 13-year-old has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow as part of her family's struggle to lengthen Kate's life. Anna is now being considered as a kidney donor in a last-ditch attempt to save her 16-year-old sister. As this compelling story opens, Anna has hired a lawyer to represent her in a medical emancipation suit to allow her to have control over her own body. Picoult skillfully relates the ensuing drama from multiple points of view. Everyone's quandary is explicated and each of the characters is fully developed. There seems to be no easy answer, and readers are likely to be sympathetic to all sides of the case. This is a real page-turner and frighteningly thought-provoking. Alex Award, Vermont Green Mountain Book Award, Best Book of the Year (Bookbrowse.com), IMPAC Dublin Literary Reward nominee

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

Synopsis: Standing on the fringes of life offers a unique perspective...but there comes a time to see what it looks like from the dance floor. Since its publication, Stephen Chbosky's haunting debut novel has received critical acclaim, provoked discussion and debate, grown into a cult phenomenon with over three million copies in print, spent over one year at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and inspired a

major motion picture starring Logan Lerman and Emma Watson. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a story about what it's like to travel that strange course through the uncharted territory of high school. The world of first dates, family dramas, and new friends. Of sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Of those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vazzini

Synopsis: Overwhelmed by the pressures of high school, a depressed freshman checks himself into a psychiatric ward and finds a creative outlet for his stress. Craig is a smart, ambitious New York City teenager who, upon entrance to Manhattan's most prestigious school, begins to see his once-perfect future crumbling away until a motley crew of new friends helps to save him from himself.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Synopsis: In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut--young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers, Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. His psychological battles include loneliness, fear that he is becoming like the cruel brother he remembers, and fanning the flames of devotion to his beloved sister. Is Ender the general Earth needs? But Ender is not the only result of the genetic experiments. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway for almost as long. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If the world survives, that is. Winner of the Hugo and Nebula Awards.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

Synopsis: From the author of the phenomenal #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Tuesdays with Morrie*, a novel that explores the unexpected connections of our lives, and the idea that heaven is more than a place; it's an answer. Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It's a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie's five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries of his "meaningless" life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: "Why was I here?"

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

Synopsis: Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem High School, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Ironman by Chris Crutcher

Synopsis: While training for a triathlon, seventeen-year-old Bo attends an anger management group at school which leads him to examine his relationship with his father.

Gathering Blue by Louis Lowry (author of *The Giver*)

Synopsis: Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg, lives in a world where the weak are cast aside. She fears for her future until she is spared by the all-powerful Council of Guardians. Kira is a gifted weaver and is given a task that no other community member can do. While her talent keeps her alive and brings certain privileges, Kira soon realizes she is surrounded by many mysteries and secrets. No one must know of her plans to uncover the truth about her world and see what places exist beyond.

*****Tears of a Tiger* (Mature title)** by Sharon Draper

Synopsis: After the tragic death of his longtime friend and Hazelwood Tiger basketball teammate, Andy, the driver of the car, blames himself. While his other friends have managed to work through their grief and move on, Andy struggles with guilt and pain. In the months that follow the accident, the lives of Andy and his friends are traced through a series of letters, articles, homework assignments and dialogues.

The Best Little Girl in the World by Steven Levenkron

Synopsis: Teenager Francesca Deitrich feels too fat. She is giving into the pressures of her ballet teacher and the pencil-thin models in the media. This is a revealing story about a "perfect" little girl suffering from the destructive obsession of anorexia nervosa.

The Brave by Robert Lipsyte

Synopsis: Sonny's been an outsider all his life. He has never fit into either world: the Moscondagas on the Reservation see him as white; whites see him as Indian. So far, Sonny's managed to harness his anger -- what he calls "the monster" -- in the boxing ring. But Sonny wants out of the Res. He's headed for New York City, where nobody can tell him what to do. Sonny doesn't count on stepping into the middle of a drug war when he gets there -- or on tangling with a tough Harlem boxer-turned-cop named Alfred Brooks. Brooks seems to think that Sonny's got the talent to make it to the top -- to be a contender. But first Sonny's got to learn to be smart, take control of his life, and beat the monster. Only it isn't as easy as it sounds....

NON-FICTION

A Daughter's Love: A Holocaust Memoir by Trudi Birger

Synopsis: Trudi Berger was literally snatched from the flames of the Holocaust. At the age of fourteen, her family was confined to a Lithuanian ghetto. A few years later, she and her mother are sent off to the camps, suffering forced labor and the ever-present threat of death. This story of courage, determination, and hope is a powerful and moving memoir explores the special bond between a mother and daughter.

Please Stop Laughing at Me by Jodee Blanco

Synopsis: While other children were daydreaming about dances, first kisses, and college, Jodee Blanco was trying to figure out how to go from homeroom to study hall without being taunted or spit upon as she walked through the halls. This powerful, unforgettable memoir chronicles how one child was shunned—and even physically abused—by her classmates from elementary school through high school. It is an unflinching look at what it means to be the outcast, how even the most loving parents can get it all wrong, why schools are often unable to prevent disaster, and how bullying has been misunderstood and mishandled by the mental health community.

Roselle Park Summer Reading Response Journal Template

Student Name _____

Grade Level in September _____

Be sure to cite page numbers as evidence. Remember that your journal must be typed as a Word document and submitted to Turnitin.com in the fall in order to receive credit.

Chapter #, List and Summary of Events	Reader Reflections/Questions

Name:
Title:

Modified Cornell Notes
Chapter/pages:

Annotations/Signposts:

Summary:

Reaction:

