

## **11th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment with Ms. Candlin**

### **Part I. What makes a hero?**

**Introduction:** Have you ever felt like you're the star of the movie that is your life? Chances are, the answer is yes. We all tend to see ourselves as protagonists, even heroes in our life's journey. Authors know this to be true and often tell stories about a singular character in order to explore the qualities that make a person heroic (or anti-heroic) within a specific set of circumstances. In order to prepare for our study of morality next year, you will learn about the archetype of the hero's journey over the summer and then read a book in which the narrator fulfills or veers away from the archetype of the hero. Finally, you will write a 3 page paper, a short video or a visual representation that explains how the narrator fulfills or fails to fulfill the definition of a hero.

### **Tasks:**

1. Watch this video about the hero's journey at least twice. Take notes or make an annotated drawing that captures the different stages of the hero's journey:  
<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-makes-a-hero-matthew-winkler>.
2. Read: Choose one of the novels below. Do some research on the books beforehand in order to choose the one that fits your reading level and interest. As you read, track how the protagonist follows or veers away from the different stages of the hero's journey. Is the narrator a hero? Why or why not?

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz

*Prep* by Curtis Sittenfeld

*Feed* by M.T. Anderson

3. **Think/Write:** Write a 3 page paper, make a short video, write a poem or a rap, or create a visual representation that explains how the narrator does or does not fulfill the definition of a hero. Make sure that your assignment includes evidence from the text in the form of summary, direct quotes, or a paraphrase.

If you are unable to purchase the novel or memoir, you may borrow one from the school before the end of the year. See Ms. Candlin (Room 602) to get a copy.

Part II. Choose 4-6 books from the list on the following page or your own reading list to read on your own before you return to school in September.

*Texts for Grades 11 and 12*

Title	Author
<i>A Place to Stand</i>	Jimmy Santiago Baca
<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	Khaled Hosseini
<i>Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.</i>	Luis Rodriguez
<i>The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game</i>	Michael Lewis
<i>Divergent</i>	Veronica Roth
<i>The Maze Runner</i>	James Dashner
<i>Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children</i>	Ransom Riggs
<i>The Wolf of Wall Street</i>	Jordan Belfort
<i>American Gods</i>	Neil Gaiman
<i>Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness and Survival</i>	Liz Murray
<i>The Glass Castle: A Memoir</i>	Jeanette Walls
<i>My Sister’s Keeper</i>	Jodi Picoult
<i>Room</i>	Emma Donahue
<i>Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison</i>	Piper Kerman
<i>Gone Girl</i>	Gillian Flynn
<i>Sharp Objects</i>	Gillian Flynn
<i>Pet Cemetery</i>	Stephen King
<i>Teen Angst</i>	Ned Vizzini
<i>Keesha’s House</i>	Helen Frost
<i>Looking for Alaska</i>	John Green
<i>Ender’s Game</i>	Orson Scott Card
<i>4,000 Days: My Life and Survival in a Bangkok Prison</i>	Warren Fellows
<i>The Lovely Bones</i>	Alice Sebold
<i>If I Stay</i>	Gayle Forman
<i>Where She Went</i>	Gayle Forman
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	J.D. Salinger
<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien
<i>The Princess Bride</i>	William Goldman
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee
<i>Water for Elephants</i>	Sara Gruen
<i>The Night Circus</i>	Erin Morgenstern
<i>Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year Old GI</i>	Ryan Smithson
<i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i>	Bill Bryson
<i>The Beach</i>	Alex Garland
<i>The Mitch Rapp Series</i>	Vince Flynn
<i>Patient Zero</i>	Jonathan Maberry
<i>Jurassic Park</i>	Michael Crichton
<i>The Coldest Winter Ever</i>	Sistah Souljah
<i>It’s Kind of a Funny Story</i>	Ned Vizzini
<i>Wintergirls</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson
<i>Ready Player One</i>	Ernest Cline
<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak
<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i>	Anthony Doerr

