



**SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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**FROM MR. CITTADINI  
ENGLISH DEPT.**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Another school year is upon us. This year your students will be Juniors. It is important to keep learning at all times, which is why the summer assignment is important. The students are required to read **ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE BOOKS**—*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (*Young adult fiction*), *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara (*Historical Fiction*), or *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs (*Biography*). The assignment is due the first Friday of the school year. As such, we will be spending at least the first week of the school year covering these readings. Therefore, the students should come to class **with the book in their possession**. This can be in the form of the book itself, or some digital download/e-book edition on their school device. The books are available in most book stores and are definitely available online through Amazon and Barnes and Nobles.

Coverage of the book will begin on the first full school day. We will focus on the writing process and provide textual evidence in their writing. We want to emphasize that plagiarism is unacceptable and the questions at the end of this packet are designed to help students create an original work.

The English Dept. especially will be placing heavy emphasis on writing skills. In most cases the students will be asked to re-write the summer assignments in order to improve their proofreading and editing skills. The assignment rubric is on p. 2 of this document and the questions to be answered are on p. 3.

Thank you for your cooperation. If there are any questions about this or any other assignment this year, the best way to reach us is via e-mail at [lcittadini@neumanngorettihs.org](mailto:lcittadini@neumanngorettihs.org).

Sincerely,

Mr. Leo Cittadini



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Read **one** of the 3 books and answer these questions:

STANDARD 5 paragraph essay: (2-3 pages total)

- Intro
- Body
- Conclusion

1. Argumentative Essay on chosen book

what was the author's purpose? Did the author achieve his or her purpose? Argue your opinion on this topic and provide evidence from the text to back up your points.

This is the thesis statement and intro of your paper.

is the writing effective, powerful, difficult, beautiful, etc.? Pick out some adjectives of your own.

what are the strengths and weakness of the book? List 2 each. Explain your reasoning.

what is your overall response to the book? Did you find it interesting, moving, and dull? Pick some scenes that exemplify your opinion.

would you recommend it to others? Why or why not? This makes up the body of your paper and supports your initial argument..

**2. Conclusion Final paragraph**

Briefly conclude by pulling your thoughts together. You may want to say what impression the book left you with, or emphasize what you want your reader to know about it.

Use examples from the book where necessary. Cite textual evidence to support your claims. Again, do not plagiarize.