

9th Grade Summer Reading - English 1

Students will read one of the novel choices below. Then, students will complete (3) three diary entries as one of the characters in the book. The assignment is due September 8, 2020, the first day of school.

- *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow
- *There There* by Tommy Orange
- *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesymn Ward

Assignment Guidelines:

- Read one of the novel choices listed above.
- Choose ONE character and write or type (3) three diary entries as that character, or from the character's point of view.
 - A diary entry is very similar to a personal letter. You write about things that happened (to you), about your problems, feelings, hopes, and plans for the future. It helps you as a reader CONNECT with a character. It also proves your understanding of what a character goes through; thoughts, actions, and emotions.
 - Each diary entry should be in first person from your selected character's point of view and include a summary (retold by the character) of what happened in a particular chapter OR elaborate on a major scene.
 - Language for diaries is informal and personal, and very honest.

Example:

Dear Diary:

When my stepmother and stepsisters finished breakfast, I went to the kitchen to do the washing up . After fulfilling all my duties, I went back to my room. But before getting there, I heard one of my stepsisters calling me. After finishing everything, I began to clean the floor. It was ten o'clock in the evening and I was worn out. My stepmother would not let me sleep until I would have finished cleaning the floor. After a while, my stepmother and my stepsisters went to sleep, but I kept on cleaning.

I can not bear being dependent on my stepmother anymore! I need to leave this house as soon as possible. My life is horrible, I have time for nothing, but cleaning and I live only for my stepmother's needs. I am writing to you because I am really out of my mind. My stepmother and my stepsisters make my life impossible. They treat me badly and I can not stand it, I want to be free and not having to clean or cook for them anymore. Please tell me what I have to do to solve this problem.

I understand you. What you should do is run away from the house at night when nobody can see you. I will find you a safe place to live. They won't bother you again , you will not have worries anymore, and you can live happily ever after.

-Cinderella

- You will either handwrite or type your diary entries:
 - Typing instruction: Each entry will be at least 300 words, typed, double-spaced, 12pt. size, Times New Roman font.
 - Handwriting: Neatly write out each diary 300 word entry, double spacing as you go. You may either print or write in cursive.
- If typed, you may submit your diaries to the 9th Grade Summer Reading 2020 Google Classroom. (only available to current SDP students)
 - **Classroom code: b4rruda**

Structural features:

- Begins with a date and an address to the diary like, “Dear Diary.”
- **Introduction:** first sentence is usually a general sentence about the day.
 - Example: Today was great!7[
- OR
- A general sentence about how you feel at the time of writing.
 - Example: I’m freaking out right now!
- **Body:** usually includes a description of what happened, how you felt about it and what your plans are for the future (even if it’s just the next day)
- **Conclusion:** a final comment on how you are feeling now that you have written it all down and a closing comment
 - Example: I’m going to bed – test tomorrow.
- Often ends with another address to the diary e.g ‘bye for now’ etc. You don’t have to do this.

Language features:

- Informal language
 - Example: I’m like soo over him.
- Short sentences
 - Example: I’m soooo tired!
- Informal/incomplete grammar
 - Example: I’m gonna go to bed now.
- Informal punctuation
 - Example: the use of ... (elipses) or – (hyphen)
- Expressive use of punctuation or symbols
- Questions (addressed to the diary)
- The use of past tense to retell events from the day or week.

Please email Ms. Antoinette Davis with any questions at aldavis@philasd.org.

Rubric

(90-100) Exemplary Diary

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All requirements are met. Facts and information are woven into the narrative in a way that makes sense. Clearly, the writer has used his or her own words and didn't "copy from the source." Student's entries are insightful, thorough, and interesting.

(80-89) Super Diary

Most requirements are met. The work makes sense, but there may be some flaws in logical development. Facts and information are used, but they may need to be translated more clearly into the writer's "own words".

(70-79) Acceptable Diary

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Some requirements are met. Facts and information are used, but diary needs more development. A better understanding of character is needed.

(60-69) Help Needed Diary

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Student failed to complete the assignment as instructed. Student is rewarded for effort, but it is evident that student has not read or does not understand the content of the book.

(59 or below) Unacceptable diary or No diary submitted

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Student put forth little effort and did not meet the basic requirements of this assignment.