

## Queen's Grant Preparatory High School Summer Reading Assignment for 2010-2011

<b><u>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b> <i>Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story</i> (Ben Carson)	<b><u>9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors</u></b> <i>Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story</i> (Ben Carson) <i>A Separate Peace</i> (John Knowles)
<b><u>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b> <i>Things Fall Apart</i> (Chinua Achebe)	<b><u>10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors</u></b> <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by (Chinua Achebe) <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (Sophocles)
<b><u>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b> <i>Death of a Salesman</i> (Arthur Miller)	<b><u>11<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors</u></b> <i>Death of a Salesman</i> (Arthur Miller) <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (Mark Twain)
<b><u>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b> <i>1984</i> (George Orwell)	<b><u>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors &amp; AP</u></b> <i>1984</i> (George Orwell) <i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> (Alan Paton)

Identify and record **five** significant passages from **each** book you are assigned for summer reading. In a paragraph of 5-7 sentences, analyze **each** passage and explain its significance. Note that honors classes are required to read two books over the summer. If you have enrolled in an honors course, you must complete this assignment for **both** books.

Your paragraphs should focus on **analysis**, not summary. Do not simply paraphrase the passage. Here are some questions you may want to consider:

- \* Why is this passage important to the novel as a whole?
- \* What does this passage suggest about the character speaking or the character being spoken about?
- \* What is the tone of the passage?
- \* What themes emerge in this passage?
- \* Can you relate this passage to something else you've read, seen or experienced?

On the back of this sheet, you will find two good examples from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Your analyses should be written and developed entirely by you and represent your own thoughts on the passages you have selected. Analyses copied or paraphrased from Spark Notes, Cliff's Notes, Shmoop or other online or print resources will receive a zero. Summer reading work may be typed or neatly handwritten. **SUMMER READING WORK WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE SECOND DAY OF CLASS. LATE WORK WILL BE PENALIZED.**

Jane Smith

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* Summer Reading

### Passage #1

"I am your spaniel; and, Demetrius / The more you beat me, I will fawn on you: / Use me but as your spaniel, spurn me, strike me, / Neglect me, lose me; only give me leave, / Unworthy as I am, to follow you" (Shakespeare 18).

### Analysis #1

This passage takes place when Helena chases Demetrius into the forest. Helena loves Demetrius, but he does not love her back. This passage reveals a great deal about Helena's character. It shows us how much she loves Demetrius because she is willing to do anything just to be in his life. She's willing to be used, spurned, struck, and neglected if only she can be in his life. Moreover, it shows us how insecure Helena is and what low self esteem she has if she is willing to let herself be treated that way by a man—she even calls herself "unworthy" of someone who treats her so poorly! I think that Helena needs to be more confident in herself. She needs to realize that any one who would treat her that way isn't worth her time.

### Passage #2

"Ay me! for aught that I could ever read, / Could ever hear by tale or history, / The course of true love never did run smooth" (Shakespeare 5)

### Analysis #2

Lysander says this to Hermia near the beginning of the play. Hermia is in love with Lysander, but her father wants her to marry Demetrius. Hermia is very upset because she has just learned that she must either marry Demetrius or go to a convent in four days. When Lysander tells her that "the course of true love never did run smooth," he reassures her of the depth of their love and that things will work out in the end. Moreover, this quote introduces one of the main themes of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*—love's difficulty. Lysander and Hermia's current situation is only one example of the recurring troubles that the quartet of Athenian lovers encounters throughout the play.