

Signal Mountain Middle High School
Honors English 9 Summer Reading Texts and Assignment

Choose one (1) of the following books for summer reading:

Beautiful Country by J.R. Thornton

Chase Robertson arrives in Beijing as a fourteen-year-old boy still troubled by the recent death of his older brother. He discovers a country in transition; a society in which the dual systems of Communist Era state control and an emerging entrepreneurial culture exist in paradox. A top ranked junior tennis player in the U.S., Chase joins the practices of the Beijing National Junior Tennis Team and is immersed in the brutal, cut-throat world of Chinese sport. It is a world in which gifted children are selected at the ages of six or seven for specialized sport schools where they devote their entire youth to the pursuit of athletic excellence and are paid as professionals by the state. Athletes find themselves compelled to do anything possible to succeed—right or wrong. Those who fail to reach the pinnacle are cast aside and are left facing a desperate future without hope. In China, Chase gains access to a culture rarely open to Westerners, and soon finds himself caught up in secrets. When his closest friend and teammate turns to him for help, Chase is faced with the dilemma of what to do when friendship, rules, and morals are in conflict.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's most vicious racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There they are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna who presides over their household. This is a remarkable story about divine female power and the transforming power of love—a story that women will continue to share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

Complete the following assignment with your chosen summer reading book:

While reading your novel, you will focus on the characterization of the protagonist. You will find direct and indirect characterization provided by the author, and you will chart evidence of each type in the attached T-Chart.

- Direct characterization is when an author explicitly lists the traits of a character with specific adjectives and descriptions (i.e. humorous, friendly, tall, short, etc.)
- Indirect characterization consists of the author *showing* the audience what kind of person a character is through the character's thoughts, words, and deeds. This requires the audience to make inferences about why a character would say or do those things.

On the T-Chart, you will list 5 quotes that reveal direct characterization and 5 quotes that reveal indirect characterization.

Honors English 9 Summer Reading Assignment

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

MLA Citation: _____

Directions: While reading your summer novel, chart five quotes that reveal direct characterization of the protagonist and five quotes that reveal indirect characterization of the protagonist. Write the quotation in MLA format and explain what character traits are shown through the citation.

Direct Characterization

Indirect Characterization

<p>1. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>	<p>1. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>
<p>2. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>	<p>2. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>

<p>3. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>	<p>3. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>
<p>4. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>	<p>4. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>
<p>5. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>	<p>5. Quote:</p> <p>Explanation of Quote:</p>

