

**Summer Reading Assignment
Ninth Grade Honors
Johns Creek High School
Summer 2015**

—RATIONALE—

In preparation for your freshman year in an honors literature course, we want summer reading to serve the dual purpose of providing an enjoyable reading experience while also giving students a basic framework for the higher level literary discussions that will take place in our honors courses. The ultimate goal for our future honors freshmen is to read, stretch, and arrive in the fall with a foundation in the literary devices and universal themes that will be expanded on throughout the school year.

**—TEXT OPTIONS—
(Read one)**

- ❖ **Dystopian Fiction**
The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
- ❖ **Narrative Non-Fiction**
The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore
- ❖ **Teenage Angst at Its Finest**
Paper Towns by John Green

—ASSIGNMENTS—

- ❖ **S.I.F.T. Forms (2 total)**
On the first day of school—Monday, August 10—students will submit **two** completed S.I.F.T. Forms (attached) for the one novel that they read. The form asks students to recognize Symbolism, Imagery, and Figurative Language in order to analyze a Theme that the author develops throughout the text. Please understand that you will analyze two different themes in one text and **submit two forms on the first day of school.**
- ❖ **Literary Analysis**
The first two weeks of the school year will be dedicated to teaching students how to analyze literature through writing. Though nothing is due for this assignment on the first day of school, an in-depth understanding of each text is essential to writing a strong first essay of the year.

Assignment due date: Monday, August 10.

For any questions, you may contact:

Students A-L dcise@fultonschools.org

Students M-Z economost@fultonschools.org

The S.I.F.T. Method

Name _____

RATIONALE: Authors use Symbolism, Imagery, and Figurate Language in order to convey a particular message or Theme. The S.I.F.T. method is one way to deconstruct a literary work.

TASK: Complete the following graphic organizers that facilitate the S.I.F.T. method.

1. Please complete this entire form in pen or type. No pencil.
2. Use your book to extract evidence. Reference page numbers for each example.
3. Explain the evidence and discuss its importance/significance in relation to the author's message/theme.
4. **Do not discuss these elements in isolation.** In other words, do not choose a symbol to discuss unless the author uses that symbol to develop the theme about which you are writing. Do not choose a metaphor to discuss unless it aids in the development of the theme about which you are writing.

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PART I – CENTRAL IDEA

Choose a central idea (one-word examples below) and turn that one word into a theme. For example, choosing 'Morality' in *To Kill a Mockingbird* could lead to a theme such as, "Atticus Finch indirectly teaches Scout the need to hold onto morals in even the toughest of circumstances." Please note that these one-word examples cannot stand alone as themes.

Write the theme you've created in the box below to help focus your assertions throughout the S.I.F.T. It is not mandatory that you use one of the topics below; you may use one of your own or you may combine topics below to make a theme.

Morality

Alienation

Civilization/Savagery

Power (Might vs. Right)

Innocence and Experience

Human Nature

Good and Evil

PART II – SYMBOLISM

Identify a symbol in the text that helps to develop the theme you are analyzing. A symbol is a tangible (can be touched) object that stands for something greater than itself. Explain the significance of this symbol as it relates to your specific theme, and provide two quotations from the novel that show the development of the symbol. Be sure to write down the author and page number of the two quotes from the novel. If this is your second S.I.F.T. form and second theme, you may not use the same symbol twice.

Symbol: _____

Significance of the Symbol:

Supporting Quote #1:

Supporting Quote #2:

PART III – IMAGERY

Identify two examples of imagery that assist in demonstrating your theme. Imagery is any descriptive language that paints a vivid picture in the reader's head. Provide the direct quote from the novel and page number for each, and discuss how the author's diction (word choice) in this passage helps to develop your theme. If this is your second S.I.F.T. form and second theme, you may not use the same passage for imagery twice.

Imagery Quote #1:

Discussion of Author's Diction:

Imagery Quote #2:

Discussion of Author's Diction:

PART IV – FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Analyze two different literary devices and how they aid in the development of your theme. Choose two from the list provided, or research other common literary devices, and provide a direct quotation from the text and appropriate page number. **The only literary devices you may not use are imagery or simile.** Explain each device's significance as well as its relation to your specific theme. If this is your second S.I.F.T. form and second theme, you may not use any quotation twice.

Literary Devices to Consider: Allusion, Analogy, Antithesis, Flashback, Foreshadowing, Hyperbole, Irony, Metaphor, Motif, Paradox, Personification, etc.

Literary Device #1:

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Device's significance as it relates to your theme:

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Literary Device #2:

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Device's significance as it relates to your theme:

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PART V – THEME

Show me what you know. Discuss the impact of your theme as it relates to characters in the text as well as readers of the text. Do not summarize the plot of your choice text, and do not simply repeat what you have already written in previous sections of the S.I.F.T. form. Finally, collect your thoughts before you write and fit your theme analysis on this one page. Each S.I.F.T. form should fit on five sheets of paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.