

Dear English 9 Honors Student,

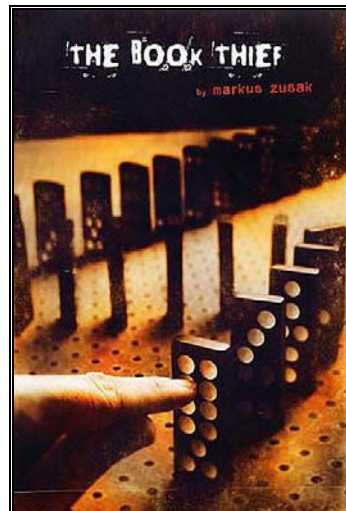
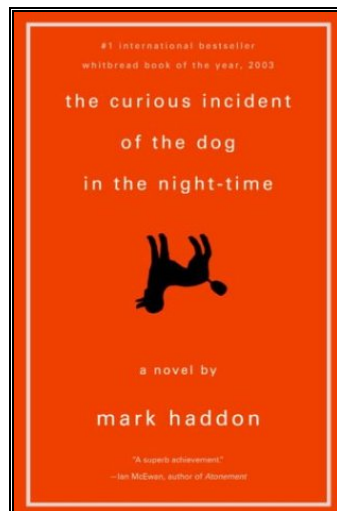
Welcome to Saint Viator High School! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself, the class, and the summer reading assignments. This will be my fourth year teaching at Saint Viator; however, I also attended Viator as a student and feel blessed to be back. Just to clarify any confusion regarding my name, I will be celebrating my wedding over the summer; therefore, my name will change from Kieffer to Collins.

Throughout the year, we will be working on enhancing your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. As an English 9 Honors student, you are expected to have a desire to learn, a willingness to actively participate, a natural capacity to comprehend and analyze complex texts, and an aptitude for writing.

Your summer reading assignment is due on the first day of school. In addition to reading *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, you will be required to annotate each book and complete an assignment for *The Book Thief*. Please refer to the instructions on the following pages. Furthermore, you will have a test on both novels on Monday, August 24.

I hope you have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to meeting you in August. Happy reading!!

Sincerely,
Ms. Stephanie Kieffer (soon to be Mrs. Collins!)



Assignment Part I: Annotating *The Book Thief* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

Annotating a text means marking key passages in the book that make you think, question, or strongly react. While you read, underline/highlight the part of the text to which you are responding, and write notes to yourself in the margin.

Annotations are meant to *slow down* your reading but not hinder it. It is important to absorb this book and THINK about what you are reading. **You should have at least 1-2 annotations per page.** If you have more, that is wonderful! I will be checking your annotations on the second day of class for a grade. Make sure you have your books in class!

Some tips about annotating:

While you read underline/highlight in the text:

- Characters (who)
- When (setting)
- Where (setting)
- Vocabulary (unfamiliar words/phrases)
- Information from endnotes/footnotes
- Important quotes
- Other important information

While you read **write** in the margins- **Underlining/highlighting alone is not enough**

- Summarize
- Make predictions
- Formulate opinions
- Make connections
- Ask questions
- Analyze the author's craft
- Write reflections/reactions/comments
- Look for patterns/repetitions

After you read

- Reread annotations—draw conclusions
- Examine patterns/repetitions—determine possible meanings

The benefits

- I want you to become better and more active readers.
- Annotating text helps you to:
 - Make personal connections to the text
 - Slow down- in a good way
 - Pay attention to detail
 - Understand what you are reading
 - Improve writing for tests and essays by looking at specific support and reflecting on it as you read

Sample annotation:

FIGURE 2. Annotation of "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin

She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome.

the realization that she'd never see him alive again is finally hitting her.

There would be no one to live for her during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination.

← welcoming the unfolding future/ accepting his death.

And yet she had loved him—^{dreams} sometimes. Often she had not. What did it matter! What could love, the unsolved mystery, count for in face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being!

feeling guilty

"Free! Body and soul free!" she kept whispering.

this is only the way humans function. it's always a love-hate relationship because we will never fully relate to someone else. more on this later.*

glad he's dead, in a half-sies kind of way.

Josephine was kneeling before the closed door with her lips to the keyhole, imploring for admission. "Louise, open the door! I beg; open the door—you will make yourself ill. What are you doing, Louise? For heaven's sake open the door."

"Go away. I am not making myself ill." No; she was drinking in a very elixir of life through that open window.

it almost sounds insane...

She arose at length and opened the door to her sister's importunities. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory. She clasped her sister's waist, and together they descended the stairs. Richards stood waiting for them at the bottom.

exuberance in life.

Some one was opening the front door with a latchkey. It was Brently Mallard who entered, a little travel-stained, composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella. He had been far from the scene of accident, and did not even know there had been one. He stood amazed at Josephine's piercing cry; at Richards' quick motion to screen him from the view of his wife.

little does he know...

but he's still alive!!

But Richards was too late.

When the doctors came they said she had died of heart disease—of joy that kills. but chances are, after her realization of this new sort of "freedom," she most likely wouldn't have been especially thrilled to see him.

*"Often times she had not."

I think we're all guilty of this at times. Even our closest relatives, best of friends, and trustworthy companions will get on our nerves. Unfortunately, distaste and hate are facts of life. Opinions will differ, and actions will upset us. But ultimately, I find that forgiveness gets the better of me. 😊

Assignment Part II: Significant passage assignment for *The Book Thief*

For this assignment, you will choose one significant passage for each part of *The Book Thief*, including the prologue and epilogue (12 passages). The passages you choose should be the ones that made you think, question, predict, and/or emit a strong reaction.

For each of the 12 passages, you must type the following:

- The passage itself
- Page number
- Context- brief summary (1-2 sentences stating what was occurring during the novel at the time of this passage)
- Why did you choose this passage? Write 5-6 sentences per passage explaining why you feel this passage is noteworthy. What made it stand out to you? Why is it significant to the novel as a whole? What major themes from the novel does it help to enhance? You are not limited to answering these questions, but they should provide you with a focus.

I will collect this assignment on the first day of school (not the orientation). This assignment must be typed and double-spaced. I will not accept handwritten assignments. Please refer to the English Department's policy regarding late work below. **Please note that this assignment is for *The Book Thief* only.**

The English department's late work policy is as follows:

- **If you are in the building on the day an assignment is due, you must turn it in to your teacher by the start of class, regardless of whether you attend class or not.**
- **Late work will be scored according to the following scale:**
 - o **Up to 1 day late: 25% deduction**
 - o **2 days late: 50% deduction**
 - o **More than 2 days late: no credit**

Recapitulation of summer work for English 9 Honors:

- **Read *The Book Thief* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***
- **As you read, annotate both books**
 - o **I will check your books for a grade on the second day of school**
- **Prepare your passage assignment for *The Book Thief***
 - o **Analyze 12 passages according to the above instructions**
 - o **Type and double-space your responses**
 - o **This is due on the first day of school**