

**Directions:** Purchase and read the novel *Bruiser* by Neil Shusterman. (To increase your enjoyment, read as little about the book as possible before you begin.) Afterward, choose **ONE** of the essay prompts below and write a well-organized paragraph incorporating

**At least two direct quotes of support** from the novel that illustrate your argument, with parenthetical page citations in this format:

*Example:* "My blinders didn't allow me to see it coming" (Shusterman 85).

**A personal story** that supports your argument in the essay.

(This is the only portion of the essay where you may use "I.")

Your paragraph should be written in correctly punctuated, grammatical English. It should fit on **one typed page in 12-point, double-spaced Times New Roman** font. You should have a clear topic sentence that introduces the novel **and** expresses your main argument, but it does not need to be a three-point thesis. You should use appropriate transitions between your evidence and blend your quotes smoothly. Bring both a **digital (iPad) copy and a paper copy** of the paragraph with you on the first day of class

**NOTE:** This essay is **individual** work, and you will submit it to Turnitin.com in class. Do not work together with a friend, and do not consult any websites, not even for "ideas." If you plagiarize your essay, you will receive a score of zero and a level-2 detention.

### **Essay Prompts**

1. People spend vast amounts of time, money, and energy trying to eliminate fear, pain, worry and other negative experiences from life. Are these negatives pointless and limiting, or are they necessary and valuable parts of a full life? Support your answer with material from the novel and your own life.
2. Our world is full of people, places, and things that attempt to make life easier for us, but if we're not careful, outside help can become a crutch that prevents us from growing. Where do you see this danger illustrated in the novel and in your own life?
3. Families provide some of our closest relationships on earth, but they also present some of our greatest challenges. Where do you see this dual definition of family illustrated in the novel and in your own life?