



Dear Rising Infinity 9th Graders,

Summer is finally here! As we head into a time of well-deserved relaxation and rest, we want to be mindful not to lose the reading skills you have built up throughout the school year. Reading is an invaluable tool that promotes comprehension and critical thinking, as well as life-long learning. The required high school summer assignment is designed to build these skills, support the course curriculum, and prepare you for the upcoming year.

Assignment

Select ONE book from the list provided on the back of this letter. Choose a book that is both of interest and a challenge to you.

As you read, analyze the text using a **dialectical journal**. On each page of a composition book or spiral notebook, create a double column. On the left side, write down the page # and the text you are analyzing. On the right side, write down your thought, comment, observation, and/or question – what is it that made you stop and think for a moment? Please be mindful that your responses should demonstrate critical thinking and high school level reflection. You must have a minimum of **30 journal entries** for the book – please number your responses in the margin. Two exemplar responses have been included below.

Entry	Text	Response
22	P. 335-336 – “As Mutushiro fled, the hunt for him began. Though they were not operating under the orders of their former enemies, the Japanese worked swiftly and energetically to round up war-crimes suspects.”	<i>It seems odd that the Japanese are only just now deciding to hold Mutushiro responsible for his actions against the POWs. Why did they not believe the Americans before? And how did the Americans build trust with the Japanese to make them believe them?</i>
23	P. 352 – “Louie had no idea what had become of the Bird, but he felt sure that if he could get back to Japan, he could hunt him down...He was going to kill the Bird.”	<i>All of Louie's pent up rage against the bird has finally come to the surface. I think he would kill him if he could find him, but that doesn't seem likely. I'm curious how he will take out his anger given that killing the Bird is most likely not in his future.</i>

Accountability

Summer reading is a requirement for all English I scholars at Uplift Infinity High School. Scholars must read their selected texts and complete the dialectical journal prior to the second day of classes on August 11th/12th. This will serve as the first major grade of the school year; failure to complete the summer reading assignment will jeopardize your course grade. Additionally, we hold all high school scholars accountable for their work; you will be required to complete the assignment for a reduced-grade.



Access

This letter will be available online on the school's website and Facebook page, as well as in the front office. All book titles are chosen considering accessibility, grade-level academic goals, and critical reading and thinking skills. Each selection can be found at your local library, Barnes and Noble, or Half-Price Books, or online at www.amazon.com.

Location	Address	Phone Number
Irving Public Library – South	Schulze Dr. Irving, TX 75060	972-721-2606
Irving Public Library - West	4444 W. Rochelle Rd. Irving, TX 75062	972-721-2691
Barnes and Noble	7700 W. Northwest Hwy. #300 Dallas, TX 75225	214-739-1124
Half-Price Books	5803 E. Northwest Hwy. Dallas, TX 75231	214-379-8000

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Hannah Parker, HS Dean of Instruction (cparker@uplifteducation.org). We hope you have a fantastic summer – we'll see you in August!

Sincerely,

Hannah Parker

HS Dean of Instruction

cparker@uplifteducation.org



9th Grade: English I

Select ONE of the books from the list below for your required **English I** reading. Then complete the dialectical journal described on the front page of this packet. **NOTE: Some novels may contain mature content and/or adult language. Please select a novel you are comfortable reading.**

Title and Author	Description from Goodreads
<u>The Eyes of Minds</u> by James Dashner	Michael is a gamer. And like most gamers, he almost spends more time on the VirtNet than in the actual world. The VirtNet offers total mind and body immersion, and it's addictive. Thanks to technology, anyone with enough money can experience fantasy worlds, risk their life without the chance of death, or just hang around with Virt-friends. And the more hacking skills you have, the more fun. Why bother following the rules when most of them are dumb, anyway? But some rules were made for a reason. Some technology is too dangerous to fool with. And recent reports claim that one gamer is going beyond what any gamer has done before: he's holding players hostage inside the VirtNet. The effects are horrific—the hostages have all been declared brain-dead. Yet the gamer's motives are a mystery. The government knows that to catch a hacker, you need a hacker. And they've been watching Michael. They want him on their team. But the risk is enormous. If he accepts their challenge, Michael will need to go off the VirtNet grid. There are back alleys and corners in the system human eyes have never seen and predators he can't even fathom—and there's the possibility that the line between game and reality will be blurred forever.
<u>Code Name Verity</u> by Elizabeth Wein	Oct. 11th, 1943-A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution. As she intricately weaves her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. On each new scrap of paper, Verity battles for her life, confronting her views on courage, failure and her desperate hope to make it home. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy?
<u>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</u> by Ransom Riggs	A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive.
<u>Keeper</u> by Mal Peet	When Paul Faustino of LA NACION flips on his tape recorder for an exclusive interview with El Gato — the phenomenal goalkeeper who single-handedly brought his team the World Cup — the seasoned reporter quickly learns that this will be no ordinary story. Instead, the legendary El Gato narrates a spellbinding tale that begins in the South American rainforest, where a ghostly but very real mentor, the Keeper, emerges to teach a poor, gawky boy the most thrilling secrets of the game.