

## 9th Grade Summer Reading:

### Read the following novels:

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

*Z for Zacharia* by Robert C. O'Brien

Directions:

- For part 1, you are provided 3 questions/prompts, and you will need to **choose 1** and complete it using whichever book you want. **(At least 1 page minimum.)**
- For part 2, you are provided 3 questions/prompts, and you will need to **choose 2**: apply 1st question choice to one of your books and second choice to the other book. **(One page minimum for EACH response.)**
- For part 3, you have 10 questions; you need to **answer the 10 questions for BOTH books**. The length for this will vary according to the question; so just do what each question asks.

### Part 1

Choose **ONE** of the following three prompts to complete on *either* of your 9th grade summer reading books. **(One page minimum):**

1. Trace the protagonist's changes in the novel. Describe in detail three ways he/she changes and what drives him/her to change.
2. One of the main methods that an author uses to express a specific message in a work of literature is through the use of conflict in a story. A character usually learns an important lesson by going through an experience of conflict, and this conflict can reveal an important message about life (theme). In your essay explore the author's use of internal conflict and external conflict to convey a universal theme in the story.
3. Think about the role that social class plays in the novel that you've read. What social classes are represented in the novel? As you go through your novel, consider two important questions: how does the author feel about the different social classes, and how

can you tell the author's opinion? Explores the way that social class and class issues affect the characters and plot of your novel.

## Part 2

**Choose TWO of the following three prompts; one must be used for *Great Expectations* and the other must be used for *Z for Zacharia*. (One page minimum for each response.):**

1. Explain the main conflict in the novel. Is it man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. self, or man vs. society? Why? How does the protagonist (main character) face this conflict? Is he/she able to overcome this conflict by the end of the novel? How does the reader know?
2. Take a look at the characters in the novel that you've read. Each of the main characters in the novel is introduced to you with certain dreams, plans, and expectations. In the course of the novel, these main characters must come to terms with the difference between their dreams and the reality of the world around them. Write a paper on your novel that examines how the main characters navigate the journey from dreams to reality — What kind of course do they follow, and how are they changed for their journey?
3. How reliable is the narrator of your novel? Is the reader able to fully trust him/her? Why or why not? Support your answer with three specific and relevant details from the novel.

## Part 3

**Complete the following 10 questions for BOTH of your books:**

1. Identify the **narrator** of the story, the **point of view**, and the narrator's and author's **tone** presented in the novel.
2. Keep track of **theme(s)** as they emerge and your reactions to them.
3. Take notes on the **setting** (including culture) and how it affects or influenced the characters and the evolution of the plot.
4. Note the **structure** of the novel. Is it linear or nonlinear (uses flashbacks)? How does that contribute to the novel?

5. Note interesting or unusual **diction** (word choice). How does that contribute to the meaning of the novel?
6. Note 5 instances of **figurative language** (metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole) used throughout the novel and explain how it contributes to the meaning.
7. What **imagery** is used in the novel and when (give 3 examples from the text)? What purpose does this serve?
8. Write down 10 **vocabulary** words from throughout the novel you come across and define them.
9. Write three (3) **quotes** from the text that you found interesting or made you think. Write a paragraph on each explaining why you found these important? Do they remind you of something in your own life or another book you've read? What made them stand out? How are they important to the novel as a whole?
10. Write a paragraph responding to the novel. Did you like the book? Why? Why not? What parts of the novel were the most troublesome? What parts did you enjoy? Would you read more novels about this topic? By this author? Why?