10th Grade Independent Reading Assignment - Fall 2010 – Due Thursday, 10/21/10

In 6 Easy Steps:
1. Choose a book from the list below.
2. Read the book (using sticky notes as you read to mark important passages).
3. Answer the independent reading assessment questions (see below).
4. Make sure your project is in MLA format (typed, 12-pt font, 1-in. margins, parenthetical citations, etc.).
5. Include the novel’s title, author, and number of pages as the title of your project.
6. Submit your work to TurnItIn.com by midnight on the due date.

***Independent Reading projects will not be accepted late***

Independent Reading Assessment Questions
Submit your project to turnitin.com in MLA format (typed, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, parenthetical citations for quotations). Each paragraph must contain at least 150 words.

1. What is the theme, or overarching concept, of this novel? Use at least two specific examples from the book to show how the author demonstrated the theme in the novel.
2. How did the story’s setting affect the plot or theme? Use at least two direct quotations to help describe the setting and support your opinion.
3. How did the main character’s personality traits help develop the plot or theme of the novel? Use at least two direct quotations to help describe the character and support your opinion about his/her purpose in the book.
4. Why do you think the author chose the title for the book? How does the title fit with the plot or theme of the story? Explain the relationship of the title, plot and theme, using at least two specific examples from the text.
5. How is this novel similar to something we have read in class? (Please do not say you can’t find any similarities.) Consider theme, plot, characterization, writing style, etc.
6. How does the book represent the cultural, religious, political, and/or social views of its place of origin? In other words, how did where the author came from affect the plot, characters, setting, or theme of the book? Use at least two examples from the book to support your opinion.

Summer Reading

Brazilian *The Alchemist* (Paolo Coelho - 1993)
Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, sets out from his home in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of buried treasure, but through his encounters he learns the value of the treasures found within himself. (910L - 164 pgs)

Cambodian *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* (Loung Ung – 2006)
The perils of life under the brutal Pol Pot regime change a young woman’s life forever, as she and her family find themselves fugitives of war, without even their names to remind them of what they lost. (920L – 233 pgs)

The story of the Garcia family's adjustment to life in the United States, focusing on the four Garcia daughters' rebellion against their immigrant elders. (950L – 290 pgs)

The story of a young African-American man sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit, and a teacher who tries to impart to him his learning and pride before the execution. (750L - 256 pgs)
New Zealand **Mister Pip** (Lloyd Jones - 2006)
Matilda tells about her war-torn Pacific Island village, where Mr. Watts, a lonely British expatriate, teaches the children by reading aloud one of the only books on the island, Dickens’ *Great Expectations*, transforming their lives. (780L – 256 pgs)

**Other Choices**

Australian **The Book Thief** (Marcus Zusak - 2006).
Living in Nazi Germany, young Liesel and her family choose to lie and steal to protect a Jewish refugee hiding in their basement. Narrated by Death, this is not your typical World War II story. (730L – 552 pgs)

Mexican-American **Caramelo** (Sandra Cisneros – 2003).
LaLa learns the stories of her Awful Grandmother and weaves them into a colorful family history. The “caramelo,” a striped shawl begun by her Great-Grandmother, symbolizes their traditions.

Jewish **Daniel Half-Human: And the Good Nazi** (David Chotjewitz – 2004)
From Hitler Youth to hunted “mischling,” Daniel's world unravels when he discovers his mother's hidden history “taints” him with Jewish blood and marks him for extermination. (740L – 292 pgs)

Canadian-Indian **Life of Pi** (Yann Martel - 2001).
Pi Patel, the son of a zookeeper in India, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but ends up adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger. (830L – 319pgs)

Mexican **Like Water for Chocolate** (Laura Esquivel – 1989)
A romantic and poignant tale of love and family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico. Includes recipes for dishes prepared in the novel, such as quail in rose petal sauce and chiles in walnut sauce. (1030L – 246pgs)

American **Sunrise Over Fallujah**. (Walter Dean Myers – 2008)
Robin believes in his country and volunteers to fight in Iraq; but when he arrives he realizes that fighting for freedom is not always black and white.

 Barely a postscript in official Japanese history, the horrific torture and murder of hundreds of thousands of Chinese citizens took place over the course of just seven weeks. (1280L – 000pgs)

Hispanic-American **Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood** (Benjamin Alire Saenz – 2004).
*This* Hollywood is a barrio in 1968 New Mexico, where the students at Las Cruces High School struggle through heartbreak, loss, and a racial divide to find their places in the world. (390L – 291 pgs)

American **Uncle Tom's Cabin**. (Harriet Beecher Stowe – 1853)
Tom, Eliza, Topsy, Eva, and Simon Legree star in the novel that pushed many Americans to fight to end slavery.

English **Wuthering Heights** (Emily Bronte - 1947).
The darkly romantic story of Heathcliff and Cathy, who grow up as playmates and believe they are destined to be together forever. (880L – 300 pgs)