

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## SUMMER READING AND PROJECT

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Congratulations on your acceptance to DASH! We are excited to meet you and look forward to beginning work in literary analysis. Please look over the requirements below. I have chosen engaging works for you to read over the summer. It is imperative that you complete these summer reading assignments, which serve as your first language arts grades as ninth grade DASH students. Please save your typed essay files and bring a hard copy of the final essay and illustrations the first week of school. Note, you will be assessed on novel content. If you have any questions regarding your summer assignments, please feel free to contact me via email.

### All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students must read:

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon  
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

### English 1 – ALL Students: Illustration and 350-word Essay

#### Illustration

Choose a **scene** you feel is central to the development of the story *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* **OR** *The Book Thief*. Illustrate the **scene** on a 8.5 x11 standard sheet of white paper. Include one important **symbol** present in *Book Thief* **OR** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Note: A **symbol** is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works, a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning.

#### Essay

Type a **350-word explanation** of what is occurring in the **scene** and why you feel it is important to the development of the story. Make sure you answer the following questions in your synopsis of the scene: Who is involved? What is happening? Why is the scene important to the overall telling of the story? How does the scene move the story forward (This scene is important to the plot because...)? Focus on the key **symbol** present in your drawing and explain what it represents. In your essay, analyze how that symbol functions in the novel and what it reveals about the characters or theme(s) of the novel as a whole. Note: A **theme** is an underlying message about life or human nature that a writer wants the reader to understand. **Do NOT summarize the plot.** Include **word count** at end of your essay.

#### Format for Essay:

Typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, 1" margins. On upper right corner of paper, single spaced: Student's Last Name, First Name with Today's Date on the line below.