

# Values Symposium

## Summer Reading Assignment 2024

For questions, contact CDH English Teacher, Mr. Jesse Cusick  
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Choose **one** title and complete the writing assignment. If you need assistance finding a copy, please ask. There may be selected titles available. **Read your book. You will be interviewed about or quizzed on your book.**

1. *Between Shades of Gray*

historical fiction

A novel by Ruta Sepetys written in 2011. It is written at a ninth-tenth grade reading level with 350 pages—a perfect challenge for summer reading for those who enjoy reading and can find inspiration in a WWII novel about the strength of the human spirit and human endurance. The story centers around 15-year-old Lina who, along with her mother and brother, are deported to Siberia during the Holocaust and face relentless and unimaginable challenges.

2. *We Were Liars*

fiction: psychological thriller

This book by E. Lockhart is 256 pages, for grades 9 and up. Cadence Sinclair Easton comes from an old-money family, headed by a patriarch who owns a private island off of Cape Cod. Each summer, the extended family gathers at the various houses on the island, and Cadence, her cousins Johnny and Mirren, and friend Gat (the four “liars”), have been inseparable since age eight. During their fifteenth summer however, Cadence suffers a mysterious accident. She spends the next two years—and the course of the book—in a haze of amnesia, debilitating migraines, and painkillers, trying to piece together just what happened. Lockhart writes in a somewhat sparse style filled with metaphor and jumps from past to present and back again—rather fitting for a main character struggling with a sudden and unexplainable life change. The story, while lightly touching on issues of class and race, more fully focuses on dysfunctional family drama, a heart-wrenching romance between Cadence and Gat, and, ultimately, the suspense of what happened during that fateful summer. The ending is a stunner that will haunt readers for a long time to come.

3. *Touching Spirit Bear*

This 240-page book by Ben Mikaelson was first published in 2001. It is about a Minneapolis boy named Cole Matthews whose uncontrollable rage and anger land him in trouble with the law after he severely injures a fellow student. Rather than go to prison, Cole elects to be banished to a remote Alaskan island for one year as part of Circle Justice, a Native American tradition that provides healing for criminal behavior. While there, he encounters a mysterious bear who leaves him mauled and alone. As he struggles to survive, he looks back upon his life and the decisions that landed him in his current predicament. He evaluates his anger, his abusive parents, and his helpless victim as he gets to the roots of his violent ways. This book tailors to grades 8 and up. If you would like to pick up a school copy, there are some available in the main office to borrow (come during school office hours.) It is available for less than \$4 in eBook versions and can be found for \$5 or less online and at used book sellers. (FYI - There is a sequel if this one leaves you wanting more).

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Touching\\_Spirit\\_Bear.html?id=KmyagpEHznAC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Touching_Spirit_Bear.html?id=KmyagpEHznAC)

### **Writing Assignment:**

1. As you read the book you choose, note 5 quotes you like, or that strike you, for whatever reason. Jot down the page numbers where the quotes are found.
2. Type up the 5 quotes, in the sequential order as they appear in the book. Make sure to cite the author's name and page number with each quote. See the example below. Spread the quotes out over the entirety of the book, not just from the first two chapters.

3. After you type up the quote, explain in 3-8 sentences why you chose this particular quote. Answer both: Why is it meaningful for you? Why is it important to the book's story or content?
4. Review your book so you can talk about it confidently with another student in the class. Have your 5-quote assignment ready for turn-in on the first day of school.

**Example Quote:** Use this for formatting.

- I. "What he had seen, he knew, might be a reflection, a piece of flat shell accidentally drifted in or a complete illusion. In this Gulf of uncertain light there were more illusions than realities" (Steinbeck 19).

Note the author of the quote is inside the parentheses along with the page number with no additional punctuation except for the period outside the second parenthesis.

**Overall Formatting:**

Please type your quotes if you can (handwriting is okay if you don't have access to typing). Double space. Use Times New Roman 12-point font and put this at the top left corner of your paper as your heading. Put the title of the book in *italics*, and the author, centered for your title.

Your Name

Values

August 29, 2024

*We Were Liars* by E. Lockhard