IRB 2 – 9th Grade

Coming of Age Stories

For this reading assignment, you will choose a “coming of age” book to read from the following list. All books are readily available at libraries and I have limited copies of the books, which you may check out from me at lunch time. The books that I have lots of copies of are marked by a “\*”.

*Q & A* (*Slumdog Millionaire*) \* Vikas Swarup

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* Betty Smith\*

*The Joy Luck Club* Amy Tan\*

*Catcher in the Rye* J.D. Salinger

*The Secret Life of Bees* Sue Monk Kidd

*Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini

All of these books represent a character’s maturation as they grow from child to adult. We will be looking at different cultures and how each of these cultures deals with the process of becoming an adult.

First 1/3: November 8th

Second 1/3: November 20th

Last 1/3: December 6th

Project: December 13th

Option 1:

For this artistic project, you must articulate a theme from your book. This should not be a scene from the book, but somehow related to a symbol, theme or problem in your book. For this project, you may not do a collage and your project must represent a finished and complete artistic representation. You are not graded on your artistic ability, but the effort that you put forth in the completion of your project. If you do a painting, it should be on a canvas, not on poster board or on cardboard. I WILL NOT ACCEPT PENCIL DRAWINGS.

Option 2:

Do a written comparison of a movie you think has a similar theme to your book. This should reflect specific details of your understanding of your text as well as your understanding of the movie. The paper should be 2-3 pages in length and analyze specific scenes from both. This is graded on your creativity, your understanding of both book and movie and your writing ability.

Option 3:

You may write your own coming of age fiction. This should be a story that represents a problem that you see in our world that is exaggerated in the story you write. This should be at least 2-3 pages. You are graded on your ability to express the basic understanding of the genre, your creativity and your writing ability.

Option 4: Write a 2-3 page paper that describes in detail why you are similar/dissimilar to a character in your book. This should take specific details that describe the main character and compare them to specific elements of your personality or family life. This is graded on your analysis of character, your creativity and your writing ability.

Option 5: Write a 2-3 page alternate ending to your book as if you are the author. On a separate page, write an explanation of why the ending should have been yours rather than the original. This is graded on your understanding of the plot and the characters, your creativity and your writing ability.

Option 6: Write a 2-3 page journal entry as if you are another character in the book. Consider the climax of the story from their perspective rather than from the perspective of the main character. This is graded on your understanding of the characters, your creativity and your writing ability.