IRB 1- “Coming of Age”

9th Grade Honors

For your first independent read, you will chose from this list. All of these books explore what it means to come of age, or to become an adult. While we read *A Separate Peace* together and consider the meaning of “coming of age”, you will read and explore what it means in YOUR book. This book will be read independently and you are required to have it in class every day.

**Be ready to take a quiz and discuss your books on the dates that reading is due. The chapters due follow the titles split into thirds.**

*The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier (1-14) (15-24) (25-end)

*Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger (1-9) (10-17) (18-26)

***Q and A* (also published as *Slumdog Millionaire*) by Vikas Swarup (beginning to “A Thought for the Crippled”), (“How to Speak Australian”- “Tragedy Queen”) (“Tragedy Queen”- end)**

You are responsible for getting a version of the book on your own. You can buy one, get one from the library, check one out from me at lunchtime or read one for free online. Part of this assignment is to teach you to be resourceful! You MUST have the book by September 11th. On that date, we will go over each book to mark where a third is so you will know where you must up to.

Due Dates:

Wednesday, September 11th- Book Due in Class

Thursday, September 26th- 1/3 of book due (50 points)

Tuesday, October 8th- 2/3 of book due (50 points)

Tuesday, October 22nd- Last 1/3 of book due (50 points)

Tuesday, October 29th- Book Project Due (100 points)

Project: When the book is complete, you will have been tested on the entire plot of the book so there will be no final exam on your book. You will, however, have a project on the books that you read. This project is not based on whether or not you read the book, but whether or not you understood the greater significance of your book and the unit as a whole. You will have to think more deeply about your book in order to come up with a creative interpretation of a theme or a deeper understanding of a character. Here are your options for a project.

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 (typed, double-spaced) 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 (typed, double-spaced). 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 (typed, double-spaced) 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 (typed, double-spaced) 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 (typed, double-spaced) 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.