

**North Dallas Adventist Academy English Department**  
**English I—Grade 9**  
**2021-2022 Summer Reading**

*All incoming freshmen are required to read the following selection prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Please complete the **Summer Reading Response: Journal Writing Guide** requirements while reading this selection in preparation for class discussion, testing, enrichment and written analysis during the first few weeks of school beginning in August.*

**1. *The Chosen*, by Chaim Potok**

**9th Grade Summer Reading Response**  
**Journal Writing Guide**

Incoming English I students are expected to type their reflections and reactions in journal form while reading their summer selection. The journal will be *due on the first day of school*. Each journal writing assignment will be counted as a grade. Thorough, thoughtful, and reflective responses to the following prompts are to be provided in the journal. Again, neatly typed work is expected. In order to earn the highest grade, students should complete all of the following requirements carefully and completely:

1. Identify the book's title, author's name, copyright date, and number of pages. Underline or italicize the title.
2. In 200 words, write a brief summary of the plot, including the beginning, the middle, and the end.
3. Explain the significance of the title. Authors rarely choose a title randomly. Dig for symbolic meaning. The title may be a metaphor, or it may represent some specific incident in the book. In any case, consider carefully the significance of the title and explain your thinking.
4. Make a list of the main characters, and list five adjectives to describe each one. Describe your first impressions of the *protagonist*. Describe your first impressions of the *antagonist*. Cite at least three text examples that support your response.
5. Are the protagonist and antagonist *dynamic* or *static*, *round* or *flat* characters? Describe how these characters change or remain the same throughout the story. Tell what happens to make the character change or explain why and how he/she remains static. For example, does the character have to make a choice, is there a conflict or problem that needs resolution, does the character have to be courageous, etc., or does something specific in his/her life change?
6. Cite (that is, *quote word for word using quotation marks*) and note the page number of a special passage from the book that you think is important or worth rereading. (Maybe it explains something about the character, or perhaps it describes a very special event, or perhaps it holds a certain resonance or connection with you, the reader.) You must explain why you chose this passage. Dig deep for a connection here.
7. To highlight the significance of this book, write a 5-8 sentence response to each of the following:
  - A. What life lessons have you learned (or have been reinforced) from reading this book?
  - B. What did you like and dislike the most about this book? Explain using details and examples from the selection.

**Note to Students:** English I is an introductory course on the different genres (categories) of literature and their connections to the lives of today's student. It is my hope that you find intellectual and personal enjoyment during your summer reading. I have attempted to incorporate titles that connect to your life, broaden your horizons, and embody a redeeming social message. I am looking forward to seeing and meeting each one of you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Mr. Stirewalt