Elizabeth Seton High School Summer Reading — Grade 10
Required Text: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*; Khaled Hosseini

Your summer reading assignment will be completed through the Turnitin.com website by posting **four times** on your assigned discussion board. The grade you receive on this assignment will be based on both the quality of your ideas and the quality of your writing. **Take your time on this assignment.** Posts will be monitored by an English teacher throughout the summer. **Posting options will be closed at 8 am on Monday, August 26. DO NOT USE THE INTERNET SOURCES, SPARKNOTES, OR ANY OTHER OUTSIDE SOURCES WHILE READING THE BOOK OR WHILE WORKING ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.** Any student who is found to use outside sources will be given a zero. **We want to see YOUR ideas only!**

**POSTING GUIDELINES (please read carefully!):**

- Each post can be observation or analysis and should be a minimum of 300 words.
- Each post should include at least one **QUOTATION** from the novel. You should use TLQP (transition, lead-in, quotation, page number) for your quotation.
- Each post should also include a **QUESTION** you have about the reading. Questions should not be written using 2nd person (“you”).
- For posts #1-3, you may start a completely new topic or respond to a classmate’s post. For post #4, you are required to respond to a classmate’s comments (you must still include a quotation in your response). You can respond to a classmate’s ideas either by agreeing (in which case, you might add additional support for her argument) or by disagreeing (in which case, you will offer CONSTRUCTIVE criticism and support for why you disagree).
- For posts #1-3, if you are writing on a new topic (not responding to a peer’s post), be sure to give your post a title (ie “Friar Laurence to bear the blame for suicides in *Romeo and Juliet*”).
- Naturally, all posts must have proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling and should demonstrate your vast vocabulary knowledge. Please follow the rules on the attached “English Department Grammatical Points” document. For this particular assignment only, it is acceptable to use first person (“I”) on all posts. For post #4 (when you respond to a classmate’s post), it is acceptable to use second person (“you”).

**Note:** These prompts below are just to get you thinking. You SHOULD NOT answer EVERY question in each prompt; you do need to give a coherent and insightful paragraph for each post.

**POST ONE: AFTER READING PART ONE (ends on page 104)**

Now that you are done with part one and know the characters, the plot and the conflicts, what are your impressions? Were you surprised by any of the characters? Have you noticed any symbols? (It is okay if you do not know exactly what the symbols mean, but do at least try to give an explanation). Is there something you don’t understand? How do you feel as you read? Does anything make you angry/sad/happy/confused/fascinated? From this point, how do you think the conflict will resolve? Will it be resolved?

**POST TWO: AFTER READING PART TWO (ends on page 195)**

Continuing with the ideas from the first post: after reading part two, what are your reactions? Any surprises in characters and/or plot? Do you have any new insights on symbols? Is there something you do not understand? How do you feel as you read? Does anything make you angry/sad/happy/confused/fascinated? From this point, how do you think the conflict will resolve? Will it be resolved?

**POST THREE: AFTER FINISHING THE BOOK**

What are your reactions to the end of the book? Is the conflict resolved? Is it resolved for EVERY character? Are you happy with the ending? What about the title? Do you think it’s appropriate? Does the book remind you of any other book you have read or movies you have seen? Would you tell a friend this book was worth reading? What did you like or dislike specifically? Do you think you will read another book by this author? Why or why not?

**POST FOUR: CLASSMATE RESPONSE**

As mentioned previously, each of your posts should include a question you have about the reading (about a character, the plot, etc). Choose one post from a classmate and respond to it. While you may not be able to answer her question completely, offer some ideas of your own to help answer her question. This does not (and really SHOULD NOT) be your final post, but can be done at any point where you see a question from a classmate you would like to respond to.

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**Students with last names beginning with A-L** should sign up for the following discussion board:

- Class Title: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*
- Class ID: 6462825
- Enrollment password: summer2013

**Students with last name beginning with M-Z** should sign up for the following discussion board:

- Class Title: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*
- Class ID: 6462834
- Enrollment password: summer2013

Please be sure you have signed up on Turnitin.com to discuss the book (directions are attached).
Refer back to these rules for all future assignments until you have them memorized. You will be expected to abide by these rules (and graded accordingly) in your English classes throughout your time here at Seton.

- Book titles must be underlined or italicized (but NOT both). Titles of book chapters, short stories, articles and poems must be in “quotation marks.”

- Do not use any form of 2nd person (you, yourself, your, etc.) in formal, analytical writing unless it is inside a direct quotation.

- Do not use 1st person (I, we, us, our, etc.) in formal, analytical writing unless it is inside a direct quotation. ***On the rare occasion that an assignment allows for it, your English teacher will give specific instructions to use 1st person pronouns.***

- Do not use contractions (don’t, it’s, wouldn’t, etc.).

- Literature LIVES, so always use present tense verbs when writing about literature.

- Only proper nouns, titles, and the first letter of the first word of a sentence are capitalized. A doll’s house (a toy) does not get capital letters, but A Doll’s House (the play) does.

- Do not include “pg.” or “p” inside parenthetical citations.

- When using quotations, use the following format for periods and commas:
  - “In English my name means hope” (10). (Use this format when you have a parenthetical citation.)
  - In Graham Greene’s “The Destructors,” the gang destroys Mr. Thomas’ house. (Use this format when you have a parenthetical citation.)

- Do not use “this” or “that” as a subject of your sentence. If you feel tempted to do so, ask yourself what you are referring to with “this” or “that.”
  - Wrong: The boys do not show remorse. This means the boys would destroy the house again if they got another chance.
  - Right: The boys do not show remorse. This attitude means the boys would destroy the house again if they got another chance.

- When writing a formal assignment, you must use formal writing. Words such as “drama” (ie: This creates a lot of drama in Nora’s life) are informal and therefore not appropriate for written assignments.

- Be aware of commonly confused words:
  - there = shows location, their = possessive pronoun, they’re = they are
  - to = preposition, two = the number, too = meaning “also”
  - your = possessive pronoun, you’re = you are
1) Make sure you are logged on to www.turnitin.com.
   -- Use your email address as your login name (you should have signed up
   for Turnitin.com with your Seton email).
   -- Your password should be the same one you use to log on to your email. (You
   may have added a 1 to the end if necessary during registration.)

2) Once you are logged in, click on the link on the left-hand side of the screen that says
   “enroll in a class.”

3) When the next screen comes up, enter the class ID and enrollment
   password listed on the first page of your summer reading assignment,
   then click on “Submit.”

4) A Thousand Splendid Suns should now appear as one of the classes in your class
   list. Click on this link.
5) To post to the discussion board, **IGNORE** the information in the center of the screen. Instead, focus on the top of the screen, and click on the link that says “discussion.”

6) Your teacher will have three discussion topics listed for your summer reading assignment. Click on the title of the discussion that you would like to join. (Note: the screen below is just an example; yours will have the topics for *A Thousand Splendid Suns* listed).

7) Read your teacher’s directions (that’s the italicized part), then click on “Reply to this topic.”
8) Type your comment, and then reread it, checking for any grammar or spelling errors. Remember that this is an assignment that your teacher will be reading, and that you should use excellent spelling, grammar, and capitalization (no “u,” “2,” etc). Remember to follow any other directions (word limit, etc.) that your teacher has asked you to follow.

9) You will see your message appear on the message board. Your teacher may have asked you to also reply to a classmate’s comment. To reply, click on the “reply” button underneath their comment, and type your response.

10) Remember to check the message board again later in order to read your classmates’ comments.