

To: Incoming Eighth Grade Students

From: Mrs. Venezia, Mrs. Mueller, Ms. Morgan, Mr. DiGiacomo

Date: June 2, 2010

Re: Summer Reading Requirement

As part of your responsibilities as an eighth grade student in the English program, you are required to complete two (2) books over the course of the summer. Attached are guided reading worksheets that consist of five critical thinking questions and an open-ended question for each book. This assignment is due the first school day in September. These books are available in the library and bookstores.

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

Note: You will be tested on both books in September.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Flowers for Algernon

Part 1: Open-ended questions. Respond to the following open-ended questions on a separate sheet of paper in three to five complete sentences. Answers must be typed or written neatly.

1. How did Charlie get his job at the bakery?
2. How does Charlie's personality change as his intelligence increases?
3. Why was Charlie's relationship with Alice so difficult for both of them?
4. How did Matt Gordon try to protect his son from Rose's rage? Why did Matt fail?
5. When he learned that the regression would come, why did Charlie decide to return to work at the Institute?

Part 2: Essay Question. Respond thoroughly to the essay question in five complete paragraphs. Essays must be typed and **double spaced** or written **neatly** in blue or black ink.

Explain how the following quote from the novel presents a tremendous truth about human nature, and applies in particular to the problems that Charlie Gordon encounters:
"The mind absorbed in and involved in itself as a self-centered end, to the exclusion of human relationships, can lead only to violence and pain."

Fallen Angels

Part 1: Open-ended questions. Respond to the following open-ended questions on a separate sheet of paper in three to five complete sentences. Answers must be typed or written **neatly**.

1. What do you think Richie Perry was like in high school? Why doesn't he try to go to college? How does he feel about his family? How does this affect his friendships in the army?
2. Discuss the differences between Peewee and Jenkins when Richie first meets them. How did each get in the army? Why do they react so differently to being "in country"?
3. Discuss the character of Johnson. What is his importance to the squad? What makes him different from the others?
4. Which of the squad members would you want for your friend? How does the experience of being in Vietnam affect the way the different squad members react to each other?
5. Describe the effect of Jenkins's death on Richie and the other squad members. Describe their reaction to Lt. Carroll's death. How were these experiences different for each other of them?

Part 2: Essay Question. Respond thoroughly to the essay question in five complete paragraphs. Essay must be typed and **double spaced** or written **neatly** in blue or black ink.

Discuss the title of the book and Lt. Carroll's prayer for "all the angel warriors who fall." Why did he use that term, and why did the author choose it as the title for this story?