

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature and Composition Pre-Course Reading 2021-2022

**Required Reading Philosophy:** The Pebblebrook English Department believes that the required reading assignment is an opportunity for students to establish a broad literary foundation and exercise independent reading and thinking skills. Students entering ANY English course must follow the directions below. See chart below for specific reading assignments.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Literature and Composition

**Directions:** Read ONE of the following graphic novels and write an extended constructive response to the prompt:

**Speak: The Graphic Novel** Laurie Halse Anderson

Melinda says: "It is easier not to say anything. Shut your trap, button your lip, can it. All that crap you hear on TV about communication and expressing feelings is a lie. Nobody really wants to hear what you have to say." Do you agree with her? Why or why not? Do the events in the novel support or negate her statement? Does her outlook change at any point in the novel? How so?

**Hey Kiddo** Jarrett J. Krosoczka

A limited color palette is used in the drawings in **Hey, Kiddo**. How does Krosoczka use color in the drawings to reveal emotion? How do colors in the illustrations change as individuals' feelings change? How are the colors in the illustrations used to show mood?

**I am Alfonso Jones** Tony Medina

How does Tony Medina draw from recent events and history to build Alfonso's story? Do you think this story is a realistic portrayal of current events? Why or why not?

**Anya's Ghost** Vera Brosgol

Why explore relationships through visual texts? For this task, you will analyze the a page from the graphic novel Anya's Ghost. Your task is to deconstruct the visual features used and analyze how they support your interpretation of the text. What themes or issues does the page explore? How does Brosgol use visual techniques to explore these themes?

**Purchasing Books:** You may find all books in the public library, or you may purchase one from a bookstore or on the internet (Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnes & Noble, The Book House in Mableton, etc.) If you have any questions, contact English Academic Coach at:

[telicia.leonard@cobbk12.org](mailto:telicia.leonard@cobbk12.org).