

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ENGLISH 9/MRS. SCHLEIFER & MR. STEIN

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

This is the summer reading assignment for students entering ninth grade at Yonkers Montessori Academy in September 2019. Please read the assignment, directions, and requirements carefully. The goal of summer reading is to maintain and enhance your reading and writing skills while you are away from school. Summer reading will be collected when students return in September and a test will be given.

### **Required Reading:** The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

This story follows the life and death of Eddie, an elderly maintenance worker at an amusement park, who on his way to heaven encounters five people who had a significant impact on him while he was alive. Each person has a lesson to teach him about the meaning of life. This book is widely available at the library, in bookstores, and online. If you have a public library card, you may request it through the Westchester Library System.

**Assignment:** As you read each section, complete the study guide questions. Write in complete sentences and make sure you answer all parts of each question.

#### **The 1st Lesson:**

*The Person:* \_\_\_\_\_ *The Setting:* \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the author has the reader look at the story from different points of view – the Blue Man and Eddie’s?

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What does Eddie learn from the Blue Man? Find a quote to support what you say. Include the page number.

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Describe at least one event in your life that might have changed who you have become if it had happened differently.

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**The 2nd Lesson:**

**The Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ **The Setting:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did the captain do that changed Eddie's life? Why?

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What lesson does the captain teach Eddie? Find a quote to support what you say. Include the page number.

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In your opinion, which of the first two lessons do you think is more important, the Blue Man's or the Captain's? Explain why.

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**The 3rd Lesson:**

*The Person:* \_\_\_\_\_ *The Setting:* \_\_\_\_\_

What was Eddie's relationship with his father like? Why do you think his father was the way he was?

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Briefly summarize Ruby's story and then explain her significance to Eddie.

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What lesson does Ruby teach Eddie? Find a quote to support what you say. Include the page number.

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**The 4th Lesson:**

*The Person:* \_\_\_\_\_ *The Setting:* \_\_\_\_\_

Why does Marguerite want to be in a place where there are only weddings?

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Eddie's fourth lesson is that love lives beyond mere physical presence, and it lives not just in our hearts but also in our memories. Love is specific. Love is forever. Love has multiple forms. Find a quote to support this view of love. Include the page number. What is your opinion of these statements?

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**The 5th Lesson:**

**The Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ **The Setting:** \_\_\_\_\_

Eddie says, "I was sad because I didn't do anything with my life. I was nothing. I accomplished nothing." What do you think of this assessment of his life? Give specific examples to support your claim.

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On the final page of the novel, Albom writes that "Each affects the other and the other affects the next, and the world is full of stories, but the stories are all one." Now that you've finished the story, what do you think about this statement?

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**CHALLENGE:** Start the year with Extra Credit! Read Mitch's Albom's sequel: **The Next Person You Meet in Heaven** and write a paragraph response to each of the following questions. Typed work is preferred.

- A. What characteristics or qualities of the protagonist (main character) do you admire most and why?
- B. Describe a challenge the protagonist faced and how s/he changed as a result.
- C. What part of the book made you think? Describe that section, why it caught your attention, and what it made you think.

Any questions: e-mail [eschleifer@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:eschleifer@yonkerspublicschools.org) or [mstein2@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:mstein2@yonkerspublicschools.org)

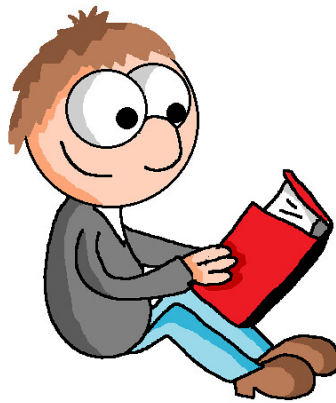
# Yonkers Montessori Academy

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_,

*(please print neatly)*

understand that I am agreeing to read this book and complete the required work because it will count toward my 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter grade.



Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Schleifer's Signature of Approval: *Mrs. Schleifer*

Mrs. Stein's Signature of Approval: *Mr. Stein*

