

**Summer 2018 Reading:  
*The Chosen***



“The blink of an eye in itself is nothing. But the eye that blinks, that is something. A span of life is nothing. But the man who lives that span, he is something. He can fill that tiny span with meaning, so its quality is immeasurable though its quantity may be insignificant” (chp. 13).

**Directions:** read Chaim Potok’s *The Chosen* and respond via one of the essay topics below. Your essay should be approximately 2 ½-3 pages in length (MLA). *Remember:* do not summarize the book; rather, analyze and evaluate themes, worldviews, moral lessons, political statements, etc. Your essay should include at least 2 outside sources. Rely heavily upon the text and use it to back up your statements. In-text citations and a Works Cited page are a must. No 1<sup>st</sup> person point of view. Your thesis should make a clear statement, be debatable, and preview your main points.

**Example thesis:** Although Danny’s father does not act like a “typical” father-figure, Danny’s strained relationship with his father actually acts as the catalyst for his growth. (You cannot use this thesis).

*Please also complete the form below to verify your completion of the reading.*

**Due date:** Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Essay topics** (explore one of the themes or motifs from the list below):

- 1.) **Themes:** conflict between religious and secular interests, friendship, familial love, prejudice, tradition v. modernity, coming of age, choosing v. being chosen, father and son relationships
  
- 2.) **Symbols/Motifs:** silence, vision

Choose one and write a literary analysis revealing how Potok utilizes that theme or motif throughout the book to teach and to make important statements, especially pertaining to what is valuable in life.

**Student:** I have read my summer reading assignment in its entirety.

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

**Parent:** I verify that my child completed his or her summer reading assignment in its entirety.

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

<b>Assignment:</b> <b>Summer Reading Essay</b>	Exemplary 4 points "A"	Competent 3 points "B"	Adequate 2points "C"	Minimally Adequate 1 point "D"	Inadequate 0 points "F"
<b>Main Idea &amp; Purpose:</b> Content demonstrates clarity, originality, and insight. Sense of audience is appropriate to formal analytical writing.					
<b>Thesis:</b> Thoroughly clarifies the proposition/position and the direction of the paper. Is focused and previews main points.					
<b>Overall Arrangement:</b> Paper follows disciplinary format; has a clear introduction, body, and conclusion; parts are proportionate and well organized					
<b>Evidence/Knowledge:</b> Main idea is supported by correct, strong, and germane evidence; sources are integrated well					
<b>Logic:</b> Paper shows strong reasoning and analysis; avoids common fallacies of logic and makes connections between points.					
<b>Clarity/Coherence:</b> Including appropriate transitions; paragraphs and sentences are clear and logically related.					
<b>Diction:</b> Words, phrases, verb tenses, and disciplinary vocabulary are correct and are emphatic when needed.					
<b>Style:</b> Sentence lengths, leads, and syntaxes are varied; tone and point of view are conventional to the discipline. Mature sentence style using strong, active verbs.					
<b>Basic English:</b> Paper uses standard edited English in grammar, punctuation, mechanics, and spelling.					
<b>Formatting:</b> MLA Format; Times New Roman format; Works Cited; in-text citations					

**Additional Comments:**

Final Grade \_\_\_\_\_