



Incoming Students Summer Reading & Writing Assignment

Beacon is a firm believer that strong literacy skills equal overall academic success. Therefore, every student at Beacon is required to complete a summer reading and writing project that reinforces our commitment to school-wide literacy. Your teachers have chosen the novel **Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman for you to read. For your information, here's a review from the School Library Journal:

Vapid, self-absorbed, status-conscious Brent attends a party at which he suffers a very public rejection by the girl he's been lusting after. Drunk, furious, and unable to deal with his humiliation, he tries to kill himself on the trip home, but his reckless driving kills a stranger instead: a lovely, talented, motivated, high school senior. Though Brent's parents would like to minimize his sense of guilt and his punishment, Brent himself is tormented and longs to make some restitution. The court arranges a meeting with his victim's mother, who asks Brent to "make four whirligigs, of a girl that looks like Lea....Then set them up in Washington, California, Florida, and Maine, the corners of the United States." Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This novel explores the coming of age theme. As you are undoubtedly familiar, now is a time of academic and personal transition. Indeed, it can be comforting to read another's tale of growth and maturation during this exciting and potentially confusing time.

Assignment:

Your assignment is to read *Whirligig* in its entirety and as you read, note where you see evidence of this coming of age theme in the form of **at least 15 Double-Entry Journal Notes** (see attachment for instruction/examples).

You should write your Double-Entry Journal Notes in the Bluebook provided. All writing must be legible and be free of grammatical and spelling errors.

You will be graded on the strength of your quotes (i.e. they must show the coming of age theme) and the clarity and thoroughness of your responses. A detailed rubric has been provided for further explanation and understanding of expectations on this assignment (see attachment).

This assignment is due **the first day of school** and will count as your first test grade in your English class so do your best and please, enjoy the read!

* *Whirligig* is available at your local library or for purchase at all places where books are sold (\$6.50)