



**The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading List**

Teacher's Name: Mr. Derosier & Mrs. Vandergriff

School Year: 2017-2018

Grade Level: 10

Course No.: 122

Course Name: American Literature II

Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP1/CP2/CPA): CP

Reading

The Secret Language of Sisters by Luanne Rice

ISBN-13: 978-1338095548

Assignment(s)

Directions: Respond to the following questions in your own words, and in complete sentences and paragraphs. Your answers must be typed and double-spaced, and need to demonstrate that you have thought carefully about the questions, to include specific examples from the novel, and to demonstrate good writing skills and critical analysis. Remember to proofread your work.

1. Describe the main **characters**—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities. For example, you could consider
 - a. Why do the characters do what they do?
 - b. Are their actions justified?
 - c. Describe the dynamics between characters (e.g., family, friendship, etc.).
 - d. Do you admire or disapprove of them?
 - e. Could they be real people or do they remind you of people you know?



2. Discuss the plot. For example, you could consider
 - a. Reader involvement
 - i. Is the plot engaging—do you find the story interesting and feel involved in it; OR
 - ii. Do aspects of the plot keep you separate from the story—a spectator?
 - b. Pacing
 - i. Is this a plot-driven book—a fast-paced page-turner?; OR
 - ii. Does the plot unfold slowly with a focus on character?
 - c. Predictability
 - i. Were you surprised by complications, twists & turns; OR
 - ii. Did you find the plot predictable or formulaic?
3. What specific **themes** did the author emphasize throughout the novel? What broad ideas do you think she is trying to get across to the reader?
4. What **passages** strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps there is a bit of dialog that you find funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there is a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?
5. Is the **ending** satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?
6. Did certain parts of the book make you uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way? Did this lead to a **new understanding** or awareness of some aspect of your life you might not have thought about before?

Submission & Assessment

- Email your summer reading assignment to your teacher by Monday, September 4, 2017.
 - Mr. Derosier's email: **sderosier@thecatholichighschool.org**
 - Mrs. Vandergriff's email: **evandergriff@thecatholichighschool.org**
- Make sure you **proofread** your summer reading assignment before emailing it to your teacher. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation counts!
- There will be a **test** on the summer reading book at the beginning of the school year. You will receive more information about the test during the first week of school.