

# Freshman Summer Reading 2018

Welcome to Seattle Prep! As part of Freshman Collegio, you will be participating in our Summer Reading program. The books you will be reading this summer are

*The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

You will take an *objective test* (multiple choice) on *The Secret Life of Bees* during the first week of school. A *Study Guide* for the objective test will be on the Summer Reading 2018 link on the Seattle Preparatory School webpage.

You will participate in a *graded discussion* on *The Boys in the Boat* during the first week of school. To prepare for these discussions, students should be active readers, and should take plenty of notes in their books. Students who are able to refer to specific passages in their novels will make better contributions to discussions. A Freshman Literature Review Chart is included at the end of this document to help you study for the graded discussion.

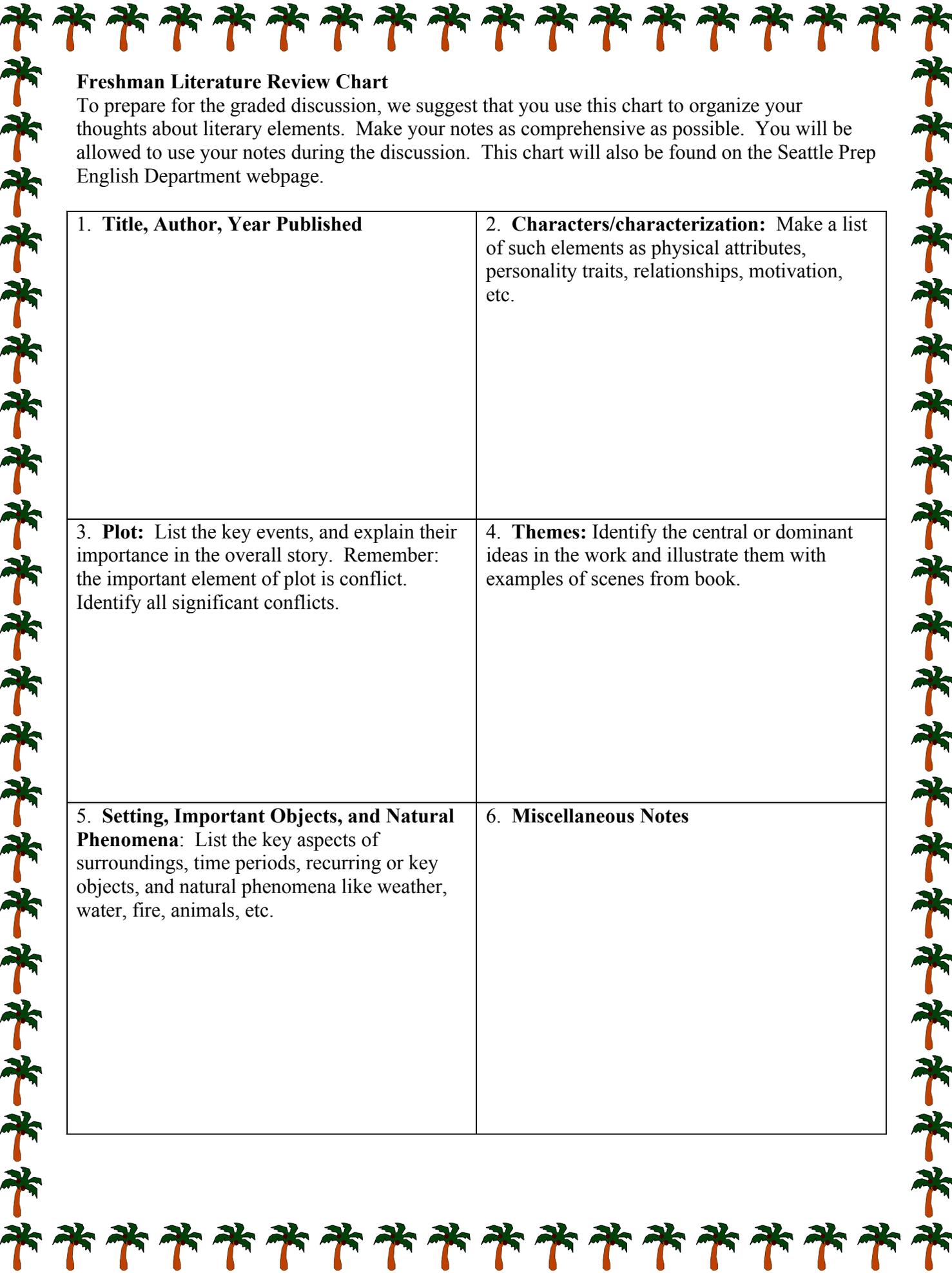
More information about the objective test and graded discussion will be provided by your Collegio teachers when you start school.

## Preview of Summer Books

*The Boys in the Boat* tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936. The emotional heart of the story lies with one rower, Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not for glory, but to regain his shattered self-regard and to find a place he can call home. The crew is assembled by an enigmatic coach and mentored by a visionary, eccentric British boat builder, but it is their trust in each other that makes them a victorious team. They remind the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together—a perfect melding of commitment, determination, and optimism. (Goodreads.com)

*The Secret Life of Bees* is set in South Carolina in 1964. The story follows young Lily Owen, a 14 year old girl trying to put together the pieces of her dead mother's past, while wanting to escape the oppressive confines of her bitter father's home. Guided by little more than a few of her mother's possessions, Lily runs away and finds the home of the Boatwright sisters, who despite their differences in race (She's white; they're black) and age, welcome her into their home. Once there, Lily's understanding of the devastating impact of racism deepens, right along with her capacity to love and be loved. This is a powerful novel about friendship, healing, and the complex definitions of family. The author, Sue Monk Kidd, creates a believable narrator who is honest, insightful, and a lot of fun. Spend a little time getting to know Lily, and you won't be disappointed.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Slevin: [aslevin@seaprep.org](mailto:aslevin@seaprep.org)



## Freshman Literature Review Chart

To prepare for the graded discussion, we suggest that you use this chart to organize your thoughts about literary elements. Make your notes as comprehensive as possible. You will be allowed to use your notes during the discussion. This chart will also be found on the Seattle Prep English Department webpage.

1. <b>Title, Author, Year Published</b>	2. <b>Characters/characterization:</b> Make a list of such elements as physical attributes, personality traits, relationships, motivation, etc.
3. <b>Plot:</b> List the key events, and explain their importance in the overall story. Remember: the important element of plot is conflict. Identify all significant conflicts.	4. <b>Themes:</b> Identify the central or dominant ideas in the work and illustrate them with examples of scenes from book.
5. <b>Setting, Important Objects, and Natural Phenomena:</b> List the key aspects of surroundings, time periods, recurring or key objects, and natural phenomena like weather, water, fire, animals, etc.	6. <b>Miscellaneous Notes</b>