

St. Vincent Ferrer High School English Department

Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming Freshman 2009-2010 Academic Year

Welcome to St. Vincent Ferrer High School! In order to get the year off to a great start, we ask that all incoming freshmen read two books and answer a few questions prior to September.

All students must read:

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin

Please answer the following questions for each book. Each answer should be approximately one paragraph in length. Answers should be typed, and will be collected during the first week of school.

1. Who is the most important and/or interesting character in the book? Why? Give one example of the character's words or actions that tell the reader something important about that person.
2. What is the most exciting part of the book - a part where you didn't want to put the book down? Does that part of the plot have an important effect on the final outcome of the story? How or why?
3. Overall, do you consider this a "happy" book or a "sad" book? Why? How do you define "happy" and "sad"? Give an example to support your conclusions.
4. In your opinion, do you think this book qualifies as a "GREAT" book? Why or why not? What qualities in a novel are needed to raise it up to greatness - as opposed to simply being a good, entertaining book?