

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Novels

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Ogawa's *The Housekeeper and the Professor*

First, attend to the close reading of each novel by marking some (3-5) important quotations in each work. You may simply place sticky notes in the appropriate pages.

On the first day of class, bring in two quotes for each of the following questions that properly address the prompt. For each quote, include a sentence or two explaining how the quote connects with the question at hand.

1. Writer Erma Bombeck says this about her own family:

"We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life, sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together."

What do the Finch family in Lee's novel and that of Ogawa's housekeeper and her son have in common? How does each "incomplete" family discover "common threads" that bind them together?

2. Atticus Finch tells Scout that she will "... get along better with all kinds of folks" if she will just "... climb into [another person's] skin and walk around in it." Does this advice also apply to the way that the housekeeper and Root come to understand the professor?
3. Harper Lee's novel has endured the test of time and continues to be an influential work that is loved by many. Do you think that Ogawa's novel will last the test of time? Why or why not?