**![back-in-time[1]]()La Salle Freshman Summer Reading**

**2017 Theme:**

***“Identity”***

**MANDATORY LIST**

1. **Contender by Robert Lipsyte**
2. **House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros**
3. **The Pearl by John Steinbeck**

**DIRECTIONS**

All grade nine (Grade 9) students must read the three books from the mandatory list above, before school begins in September.

Type your response for each book to the questions that are listed at the bottom of this page.

These notes will be helpful when your English teacher collects, assigns a written assignment or a short test, which will be evaluated in September.

All the novels feature characters which explore the struggle for modern **identity.**

\*Note - During the year, your teacher may ask you to refer to your summer reading, in order to make connections to the current issues and ideas that are presented in class.

**Please make your notes according to the following criteria:**

# Initial Response:

* What is your first reaction to the book as it pertains to the theme, “Identity”?

**Characters:**

* Who is/ are the main character/s?
* What is the main character’s goal?
* What motivates the main character?
* List four traits of the main character with supporting evidence of his/her actions, words /thoughts.

# Identify a character or characters with whom you share similar traits.

* Why do you have those traits?
* Identify a character/or characters whose traits you admire and would like to have.
* Under what conditions and in what circumstances do you/will you apply those traits?

# Problem / Conflict:

* What type of conflict exists?
* What/Who are the opposing forces?
* Explain why the conflict has developed.
* How has the character responded to the conflict?
* How is the conflict resolved?

# Important Event:

* Choose an event from your reading that you think is important.
* Describe the event and discuss why you selected it as important

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**Setting:**

* Where and when is the story taking place?
* What details of the setting does the author highlight?
* Does the setting affect the character’s view of himself/herself?
* What do you learn about the character as a result of the setting?

**Good Literature:**

“Good literature can be considered as a book that contains unique characters, intriguing plots, universal themes, excellent language and a good life lesson or moral.”

* Read the above definition carefully and consider whether the book you have just read can be considered “good literature.”
* Explain how your book does or does not fit the definition.