



## Summer Reading Assignment - *Beautiful Words*

(adapted from pennykittle.net)

### Overview

Enjoy this time to read over the summer. While you are only asked to read one book, you are encouraged to devour more!

As you read your self-selected book, part of your assignment is to gather a collection of sentences, lines, and/or short excerpts that pop out to you. Let's call them "Beautiful Words". Beautiful doesn't have to mean pretty or positive (as many of you are thinking).

***Beautiful words are meaningful or powerful. Sentences or short phrases that make you think deeply about a topic or reveal hidden details about the story, conflict, or characters.***

Be careful! You are not looking just for similes or metaphors. You can certainly choose them, but really try to focus on the author's choice of words and phrases.

### Example:

The character in your book could be struggling with a conflict they are having with their cousin. Maybe they can't agree on who should take the blame for something terrible that happened.

- As you read, look for how the author is describing their thoughts, images, reactions, etc.
- Are there any words or sentences that make you stop for a second and think deeply?
- Did the author paint a vivid image with certain words?
- Was there a section that really made you feel you learned something new that you never realized?

## **These are BEAUTIFUL WORDS!**

***Note: Don't focus on single words...look for phrases, sentences, and lines of text. ☺***

**Additional Examples:** if your book is about a terrible natural disaster, you can find the power in certain sentences...describing the destruction or fear; if your book is about war, you can find the beauty in certain phrases...describing the intensity of the situation.

The point is...author's weave words that create beauty, no matter **what** they are writing about.

After reading and collecting beautiful words, you are ready to complete the summer reading assignment!

**The assignment is due the first week of school. It will count as a supportive grade.  
If needed, you can request a conference with your ELA teacher prior to turning in your work.**

## Directions

1. **Read** and **collect** 10 examples of *beautiful words*. As a suggestion, start your collection from the very moment you begin the book. Keep a journal or stack of post-it notes close by.
2. **Create** a one-page handwritten visual representation **OR** a PowerPoint slideshow.
3. **Review** the scoring criteria before turning in your assignment. Should you have questions, please confer with your ELA teacher during the first week of school prior to turning in your work.

## Option 1 – Handwritten Visual Representation Guidelines

**Your assignment must include the following:**

### **One the front:**

- Title and author
- Ten (10) quoted pieces of evidence from your book that demonstrate beautiful writing.
- Page number in parenthesis after each quoted evidence.

### **On the back:**

- In one paragraph, briefly explain one theme of the book and how you connect with that theme. (*Theme is a universal idea, lesson, or message explored throughout a work of literature.*)
- If you chose non-fiction, write one paragraph to briefly describe the main concepts, ideas, and topics that were explored in your book and how you will use what you have learned.
- Include a hand drawn image or artistic design that represents some part of the book.

## Option 1 - Scoring Rubric

Full Credit	Partial Credit	No Credit
Title and Author	Title and Author	Assignment was not turned in and/or completed.
10 examples of beautiful writing (with page numbers)	<b><i>Less than</i></b> 10 examples of beautiful writing; page numbers may be missing	
One paragraph explanation of one theme (fiction) or main concepts, ideas, and topics (non-fiction)	Explanation of one theme or central idea <b><i>missing or incomplete</i></b>	
Personal connection to the theme or topics explored	Personal connection regarding the theme or topics explored <b><i>missing or incomplete</i></b>	
Hand-drawn image or graphic design that represents the book	Hand-drawn image/graphic design <b><i>missing</i></b>	
Few, if any, grammar or mechanics errors	<b><i>Several</i></b> grammar or mechanics errors	

## Option 2 – PowerPoint Slideshow Guidelines

Slide #	What to Include on Each Slide
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Title</li> <li>• Author</li> <li>• Your Name</li> <li>• Your Grade Level</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write one paragraph to explain one of the themes found in your book. Use evidence from the book to support your theme. <i>(Remember, theme is the overall message the author is trying to convey to the reader. It is a big picture takeaway about life and the world around you.)</i></li> <li>• If you read a non-fiction book, write one paragraph to describe the main concepts, ideas, and topics explored in your book. Use evidence from the book to support your description.</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write 2-3 sentences to explain your personal connections to the theme (fiction) or main concepts, ideas, or topics explored (non-fiction).</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy and paste 3-5 images that represent the theme (fiction) or main concepts, ideas, or topics (non-fiction).</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten (10) quoted pieces of evidence from your book that demonstrate beautiful writing.</li> <li>• Include quotation marks and page numbers.</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write one paragraph to explain your thoughts about the book, if you would recommend it to a friend, and why.</li> </ul>

## Option 2 PowerPoint Slideshow Scoring Criteria

Full Credit	Partial Credit	No Credit
Title, Author, Your Name, Your Grade Level	Title, Author, Your Name, Your Grade Level	Assignment was not turned in and/or completed.
Ten (10) quotes of beautiful writing (w/page numbers)	<b><i>Less than</i></b> 10 quotes of beautiful writing (may be missing quotes and/or page numbers)	
One paragraph explanation of one theme (fiction) or main concept (non-fiction)	Explanation of one theme (fiction) or main concept (non-fiction) <b><i>missing or incomplete</i></b>	
Brief explanation of personal connections about the theme or main concepts	Brief explanation of personal connections about the theme or main concepts <b><i>incomplete or missing</i></b>	
3-5 images that represents the theme or main concepts, ideas, or topics	<b><i>Less than</i></b> 3 images or images not included	
One paragraph to explain your thoughts about the book and recommendation	<b><i>Incomplete or missing</i></b> explanation of thoughts and recommendation	
Few, if any, grammar or mechanics errors	<b><i>Several</i></b> grammar or mechanics errors	

## Samples for Option 1

The Book Thief  
by: Markus Zusak

Beautiful words are powerful because they bring feelings and emotions to a piece of writing. They allow the author to describe their thoughts in a way that allows readers to grasp the meaning of the writing. The words used in writing can change the entire tone and message of the writing, making them a very powerful source.

One of the central ideas of "The Book Thief" is death and agony. Throughout the entirety of the novel, this is an underlying aspect.

Liesel has already lost her biological parents and brother, and is scared of losing more loved ones, such as the Jew, Max.

She had saved  
Max from the  
Nazi's and  
they've bonded  
through books  
and Liesel  
teaching Max  
how to read.

The Day Toned

"The day was gray, the color of rain  
Curtains of rain were drawn around Europe,  
the car- and

away with  
difficult  
current,

... You could argue that Liesel did have a good reason for her brother's abandonment. But

that the  
meiring  
older he  
Liesel  
compared  
citic

set Meminger had it easy. She  
died to Max Vanderburg. Certainly,  
Max died in her arms. Her mother  
any thing was better than being a Jew."

...and am finding  
no more birds at first  
in 1943 - they  
are all dead or  
lost. I don't know where.

and his dreams.

the thought of Max Va  
of guilt, surviving the  
fighting the F-16s  
thing was to  
my feelings

the only thing worse than a  
boy who hates you is a  
boy that loves you





