Your summer assignment for Junior English is threefold:

- **Read** two books
- **Take notes** in the books
- **Write** about *The Catcher in the Rye*
- **Prepare** for a quiz or test on *Old School*

1. You are to read completely at least two works this summer, J. D. Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye* and Tobias Wolff’s *Old School*.

2. As you read, you are to underline, circle, draw arrows connecting words and phrases, whatever it takes to remind yourself later of your impressions. Most important, you must write notes to yourself in the margins, asking questions, making observations, recording other page numbers or allusions or emotional or intellectual responses. Mere highlighting with pretty colors is not enough. Only copious marginalia will suffice. Your English teacher will check your copies of the books the first week back to assure that you have fulfilled this assignment.

3. For the writing assignments, we are not interested in what others have said about these novels. We want to read about your discoveries. After you have read *The Catcher in the Rye*, **write an essay** that addresses one of these topics:

   - Holden’s attitude toward women/girls
   - Holden as a different kind of hero (or anti-hero)
   - The loss of innocence
   - By the end of the novel, has Holden achieved a “recovery”? In other words, by the end of the novel, has he gained a more mature perspective on the events he narrates?
   - What is Salinger’s attitude toward the world surrounding Holden? With this novel is Salinger implying criticisms of American society? Explain.

Your essay should be titled, should include an engaging introduction with a focused thesis that tells what your paper will do, and then should fully explore your topic, using direct support from the text to prove your thesis. This essay should be about three pages, should be typed and double-spaced, and is due on the first day of school this fall.