



## **Ninth Grade—Accelerated English Summer Reading Guidelines**

For summer reading, ninth graders in accelerated English will read two coming-of-age works: *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns (ISBN-10: 0-618-91971-6) and *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder (ISBN-10: 0060512636). You are expected to read both works carefully without using Internet summaries or any sources other than the actual books (including movies). You are encouraged to use highlighters and/or make notes in your book.

When reading your novels, you may create notes to help you study for the test. Some suggestions for notes include a brief summary of chapters; for example, use only 2 or 3 well-written sentences to tell what happens in that particular chapter. Writing these chapter summaries is an opportunity to practice concise prose. You may also consider keeping a list of characters. As you read the book, write brief phrases to identify important characters and add to this list as you progress. These works have been chosen because they exhibit the literary theme of **coming of age** or **bildungsroman**. Make sure you are familiar with the meaning of this theme and can give examples as to how these works qualify as coming of age texts. *You will not be able to use these notes on the test, but they will serve as a valuable study guide.*

You will take a test, which will include an essay portion, on these books on **Tuesday, August 10, 2021**.

**Remember that the Compliance Form must be signed and returned on August 10, as well.**