

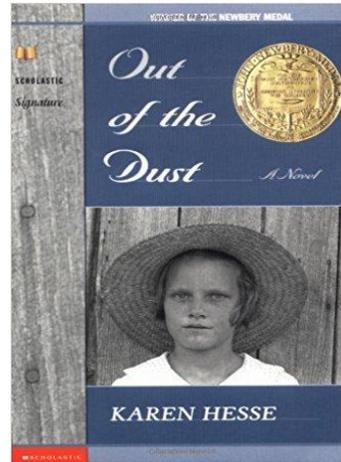
## English: Coming of Age through Literature–Summer Reading Assignment 2021

Mrs. DiGalbo

### REQUIRED SUMMER READING

#### *Out of the Dust*

ISBN: 978-0-5903-7125-4



### Welcome to English: Coming of Age through Literature

This class will explore the coming of age journey from a number of different perspectives. How do we grow-up? What rites of passage help us find our adult selves?

Our first reading selection, which is to be completed over the summer, is the Newbery Medal winning book, *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse. *Out of the Dust* is a *Publisher's Weekly* Best Book of the Year, A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year, A *Booklist* Editors' Choice, A *Booklinks* Best Book of the Year, and is a New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing selection.

**Reading and a short essay will be completed prior to the first day of class.** The assignment will be collected **for a grade**, and there will be an assessment on the book within the first two weeks of class. Begin your reading early. This will give you plenty of time to explore the bleak landscape of depression era Oklahoma, in *Out of the Dust*, through Billie Jo Kelby's journal entries about her family, friends, and neighbors, and their lives in the dustbowl.

**Due Date: The first day of class**

**Come to class with your printed essay in hand.** Essays submitted after that will be considered late and be marked down according to the policy outlined in our syllabus.

#### Summer Reading Expectations:

- All students who enroll on or before August 20, 2021 must read the book(s) assigned for their course and complete this summer reading assignment.
- All students who enroll on or after August 21, 2021 should begin reading the summer reading book(s) upon enrollment and email the teacher for details about assignment expectations.

**All new and returning students should bring a copy of the assigned novel(s) with them on the first day of class.**

**Summer Essay Requirements: *Out of the Dust***

**Directions:**

1. Prompt: Using complete sentences, respond to **ONLY ONE** of the prompts below.

Length: **250-300 words.**

A. *Out of the Dust* moves from Billie Jo’s birth, right into her current life. Would it have been helpful for the author to include more information about Billie Jo’s earlier years? If so, what would have been added to the novel and to what purpose? If not, explain why not.

**-OR-**

B. Look at the poems that have Mad Dog Craddock in them. Explain, based on those poems, what Billie Jo’s relationship with Mad Dog is really like. Use examples from the text to support your reasoning.

2. Format: Your paper should be typed and in the following format, including:

- 12pt. Times New Roman typeface, double spaced, with 1” margins all around
- Indent the first line of each paragraph five (5) spaces)
- Name, teacher, class, date in upper left-hand corner of paper.
- Title
- Be mindful of spelling and grammar—proofread!
- Show the word count at the bottom of your paper.

3. Essay Content:

- Opening paragraph
- Thesis statement or central idea (this statement needs to appear in the opening paragraph)
- Support your work with evidence from the text
- Body paragraph(s) with a topic sentences for each body paragraph
- Closing paragraph
- Scoring: Refer to the attached Rubric

**Scoring Tool**

Element	5	4	3	2	1	Points Earned
Content	Exhibits knowledge of the story, includes important facts and/or support.		Exhibits some knowledge of the story		No details from the story or major inaccuracies.	
Writing Technique	Uses proper spelling and punctuation. Grammar and sentence structure are appropriate.		Some mistakes.		Displays a lack of attention for rules of writing.	
Format	Format followed including: Name, teacher, class/block and date, title, type size and type style, margins.		Some elements of required format present		Required format not evident	
Total Points						15