

**Accelerated English II  
Summer Reading Assignments  
New Albany High School**

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**TEXT:**        *Cold Sassy Tree*, by Olive Ann Burns

**MATERIALS:**      Loose leaf notebook paper  
                         Blue or black ink only

**FORMATTING:**    Begin each of the assignments on a new page. Each assignment should have the student's name and the name of the text in the top left corner of the page. Staple the pages of the assignment together.

The assignments should be handwritten in blue or black ink.

Write in complete sentences.

**GRADE VALUE:**    The summer assignment counts as a major grade. The assignment is due the second day of school; your grade will drop a letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Also, a test will be given on the novel during the first two weeks of school.

Students should thoroughly read the book, not just one of the many summaries that are widely available.

Students should do their own work on the summer assignments. Copying the work of other students or material that is available on the internet is considered plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero.

Students may discuss the novel with classmates, but should not work in groups to complete assignments. One purpose of the summer assignments is for the teacher to get a sense of each student's personal voice and writing style.

Students should use their best organizational and writing skills and proofread carefully for grammatical errors. Be sure to follow all instructions.

### Assignment for *Cold Sassy Tree*:

1. Select **five** quotes from the novel which show *direct characterization* of one or more of the major characters. Write each quote and a brief explanation of the characterization.

**Direct characterization** – the writer tells the reader what a character is like.

*Example:* “Walter looked as if he had been raised on fish food: his eyes, as blue as Dill Harris’s, were red-rimmed and watery. There was no color in his face except at the tip of his nose, which was moistly pink. He fingered the straps of his overalls, nervously picking at the metal hooks.” (To Kill a Mockingbird, page 30)

Harper Lee gives a physical description of Walter Cunningham, using specific details to provide the reader with an image of the character’s face and his nervous actions.

2. Select **five** quotes from the novel which show *indirect characterization* of one or more of the major characters. Write each quote and a brief explanation of the characterization.

**Indirect characterization** – the reader must put together clues to figure out what characters are like (infer), such as how they look/dress, what they say and the language they use to say it, what other people say about them, and what they do

**Inference** - a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning

*Example:* ““Jean Louise, there is no doubt in my mind that they’re good folks. But they’re not our kind of folks,’ ...said Aunt Alexandra. ‘The thing is, you can scrub Walter Cunningham till he shines, you can put him in shoes and a new suit, but he’ll never be like Jem.’” (To Kill a Mockingbird, page 299)

The reader can infer from Aunt Alexandra’s comments that she is judgmental and that she labels people according to their social class.

3. With which major character from the novel do you most closely identify? In a three paragraph essay, explain how you are like the character you select. Use evidence from the novel to support your answer.