

## Summer Reading: RMIB Magnet English 10

Please read *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay before the start of the 2019-20 school year. This novel offers a compelling example of a *bildungsroman*, a German term signifying “a novel of formation.”

Esteemed literary scholar M.H. Abrams defines the *bildungsroman* in this way:

“The subject of these novels is the development of the protagonist’s mind and character, in the passage from childhood through varied experiences--and often through a spiritual crisis--into maturity and the recognition of his or her identity and role in the world” (132).

Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 6th ed. Fort Worth: Harcourt, 1993.

In a *bildungsroman*, readers actively witness the experiences, incidents, relationships, ideas, thoughts, and beliefs that shape the intellectual, physical, and sometimes spiritual development of the main character. Keep this in mind as you journey with Peekay through the pages of this novel.

### **WARNING: Objects in literature are often more significant than they appear!**

Apply your critical reading skills to this novel. There are caves, waterfalls, flowers, snakes, fire, music, a hero, a journey, and boxing! Literature is an intricate tapestry, so examine the literal, symbolic, and metaphorical threads essential to the narrative.

### ASSIGNMENT

As part of your interaction with *The Power of One*, please prepare **two** typed journal entries that reflect your identity as a writer. These entries are opportunities for you to exhibit your range as a writer: reflect, analyze, connect across texts (intertextuality), and/or connect on a personal level. Aim to make a good first impression. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Use MLA format (double-spaced, font size 12, heading, parenthetical citations).
- Each journal entry should be **two** pages in length.
  - Entry 1: should be formal and analytical in nature: analysis of a symbol or theme, close reading of a passage with an emphasis on language and its effects, etc.
  - Entry 2: should be informal and reflective in nature: personal connections, musings, and/or insights--communicate *in your voice*.
  - Please bring hard copies of your response journal entries to class on the first day of school. We look forward to getting to know you soon!

*Mr. Oakes and Mr. Koenig*