

## Session 1 Mrs. Criminger's Literature Assignment Options

Due: 10/5/18 week 6

"Being smart isn't only about getting good grades, scoring well on tests, and memorizing stuff. In fact, there are lots of other ways to show your smarts—through art, music, athletics, nature, emotions and getting along with others (to name a few)." –Thomas Armstrong, *You're Smarter Than You Think*. This year, as we read books and do assignments each student will more clearly identify their own style of smarts, while also strengthening areas that are less comfortable.

Please choose one of the assignment options below. Hopefully it will help us gather clues about your unique interests and intelligence.

### Music Smart

- Listen to a recording of Mozart's 'Eine Kleinenacht Musik, the music referred to as "A Little Night Music" that Chester played. Does the music make you think of insects hopping around? Does it make you think of anything else? What is your favorite song or type of music?
- Listen to recordings of "Come Back to Sorrento" and the Grand March from Aida. This music was soothing to Mama Bellini. What music do you like to hear when you are upset?
- What are some of the types of music in Chester's repertoire? E.g. Waltzes. Find an example of one and write a description of how it made you feel.
- Create a rap or other style original song about something that inspired you in Cricket in Times Square.

### Word Smart

- Research the mythical character Orpheus. Write about why George Selden titled Chapter 14 "Orpheus."
- Write a report about the author or something about the people or places in the story that interested you.
- Write a letter to a character in the story from another character
- Write a diary form a character's point of view, you may include imaginative things that didn't actually happen in the story.
- Write an alternate ending or what happened after the end

### Picture Smart

- Most important performances have posters advertising the event. Design an appropriate poster for Chester's musical performances.
- Study the illustrations in the book and copy one or create your own
- Find a map of New York City and copy it or make your own artistic version

### Nature Smart

- Write facts about crickets from the book and verify them by doing research. What is the life cycle of the cricket? What does Chester mean on page 132 when he says, "I'm just feeling Septemberish"? On page 15, Mario says that one can tell the temperature by the number of chirps made by crickets. Is this fact or fable? Ask students to support their answer with documented fact.