

To: Prospective Sophomore Honors English Students
From: Andy Lang & Jennifer Showalter, English 10 A&B Honors Teachers
Subject: Summer Reading Program

Welcome to Sophomore Honors English (almost). Before you arrive in September we would like you to read at least one book this summer from the list we have provided. **We encourage you to read two or three if time permits.** The following assignment, based on one of the books, is due on the first day of class. **DECIDING NOT TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO “WITHDRAW” FROM THE COURSE!**

Look at the basic curriculum on: www.langsclass.com/honors

YOUR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

1. Sign up for a book before school ends. 12 have been chosen for their variety of genre and subject matter. After researching the books (on the Internet, at the library, or wherever you can find information), sign up in room 221 for the book you intend to read. **Sign-up begins on Monday, June 11**, and space is limited, so prepare a second and third choice.

2. Read one of the books. Purchase the book so you can **write comments on the specific pages as you read**; furthermore, you will be working with your book when school begins. Our suggestion: DON'T wait till the end of the summer to begin.

3. Write in your book. Use a highlighter and a pen/pencil to hold your thinking as you read. Highlight areas in the text that draw your interest, raise questions, etc. Annotate those passages with your questions or reactions. Good, critical readers know this is an important process. You will turn in your book with your reading log on the first day of school.

4. Keep a reading log. Your log will be a record of your journey through your book. Log entries should include a variety of comments on the action, character descriptions, stylistic discoveries, setting issues, themes, and/or your personal reactions or questions to the text. You are in charge of your own log. You will decide what to write and in what form, but there are two rules:

A. indicate the quote, section, or chapter your comment is referencing—use page numbers

B. include a balance of all the following kinds of entries:

- **React** to an event or series of events
- **Ask questions** about the book. Has anything in the book caused confusion? or pondering? or speculation? Be sure to **offer answers** or guesses to these questions.
- **Quote passages** that you enjoyed or were moved by and comment on them
- describe your reactions to a character, action, or idea
- **Share your perspective** about the relationships characters have with one another, quoting specific words or phrases to support your opinion.
- **Pretend you are a character** in the book. Get inside that character's mind. Tell how the character feels about him/herself, about other characters, about the situation.
- **Note recurrent themes, ideas, motifs, words/phrases**, and comment on their significance
- Connect the book with your experience. Of what, in your life, does this book remind you?

NOTE: Summarizing the text is NOT acceptable.

NOTE: most logs end **up 5-8 pages typed**, double-spaced Times New Roman, 12 point font.

5. Keep a vocabulary list in your reading log. 25 Words: Include the **word, part of speech, definition and page number**. You should have at least 25 words, but we know most of you will have more.

6. Extra credit will be given if one or both of your parents read the book with you. Our only stipulation is that you have significant conversations, i.e., several extended discussions about noteworthy issues that the book raises. You must write out a summary of your conversations. **[Minimum requirement: 2 pages typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font.]**

BOOK LIST

Important: Some of the titles on this list may contain adult situations or language. You should make an educated, informed decision before committing to read any of these books. Have a discussion with your parents; research the book and/or reviews of the book on the internet; the local library; or at a local bookstore before signing up!

Life of Pi
Yann Martel

The Mists of Avalon
Marion Zimmer Bradley

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Maya Angelou

The Autobiography of Malcolm X
Alex Hailey

A Farewell to Arms
Ernest Hemingway

When We Were Orphans
Kazuo Ishiguro

Schindler's List
Thomas Kennealy

The City of Joy
Dominique Lapierre

The Color Of Water
James McBride

Jane Eyre
Charlotte Bronte

Great Expectations
Charles Dickens

The Winter of Our Discontent
John Steinbeck

Summer Reading Log Grade Sheet

Page numbers	____/10
Quotes	____/10
Vocabulary (terms and definitions)	____/25
Quote commentary	____/10
Questions and Speculations	____/10
Personal Reactions	____/10
Characters and Characterization	____/10
Themes and Motifs	____/10
In Book Annotations	____/20
Extra credit Parent Discussion (Student written, signed by parent)	____/10
Total	____/115

Note: all entries must be typed