

Sophomore Summer Reading Assignment

Due Monday, August 12th

Mrs. Perez

Room S-5

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This year you will be required to read one of the following novels as independent reading. **Select one book** from the following list to complete assignments for both Honors English 10 and World History. This assignment sheet only covers what is required for your English reading assignment. Mrs. Agnew will provide you with the World History component. Make sure you read this sheet carefully and follow each step to receive as many points possible.

All of these titles appear on either the California Department of Education's recommended reading list or the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults reading list. I have included the word count, reading level, and interest level listed for each book. These books are written by authors from a variety of cultures and ethnicities and backgrounds, and many of these titles contain mature content so I recommend previewing many books before choosing one to read. I also recommend choosing a book because it interests you, and not choosing a book just because it appears shorter than some of the others.

Here are some ways to find information about each title: look it up on the CDE recommended reading list at www.cde.ca.gov; research titles at www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists; get an online look into the book at www.amazon.com; and/or, go to the library or bookstore and preview the book – check out the front and back covers, read the synopsis on the back, browse through the pages; read a few sentences from different pages.

Libraries carry most of the titles on this list. Book stores will have many of these titles in stock, and if a store does not have it in stock, they will order it for you at no extra cost; it usually takes about 1 to 2 weeks to get the book when it has been ordered. Also, amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com both offer each of these titles online, and most can be bought used (in good condition) for as little as 1 cent. (Although shipping generally costs \$3.99, you can still get the novel at a good price by buying used online.) Also, some of these titles might be available at the used bookstore in Palmdale.

When you are ready to select a book for summer reading, stop by S-5 to check out a book. We have limited copies of each book available for checkout in the front cabinet. Make sure you write down your name on the clipboard, the name of the novel you are checking out, and the number you are responsible for. All novels should be returned by August 12. Books will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

***The Kite Runner* by Kahled-Hosseini**

words: 106,839

reading level: 6.8

interest level: (9th – 12th grades)

This award-winning bestseller details the complicated relationship of two boys growing up in Afghanistan. As the boys grow into men, their choices made as children now affect their adult lives.

***Always Running* by Luis Rodriguez**

words: 81,745

reading level: 6.2

interest level: (9th – 12th grades)

This compelling memoir deals with Luis Rodriguez's involvement in Los Angeles's gang scene as a teen. His fight for equal rights for Latinos in schools and determination to change his life will inspire many.

***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles**

words: 55,609

reading level: 8.9

interest level: (9th – 12th grades)

This is an enduring bestseller about a tragic incident that indelibly marks the lives of two sixteen-year-old students attending boarding school during the early years of World War II.

***I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* by Malala Yousafza**

words: 38,019

reading level: 5.4

interest level: (9th – 12th grades)

After she demanded an education, fifteen-year-old Malala was shot by the Taliban in 2012. What could have been just another murder in Pakistan became a triumph for oppressed women everywhere when Malala survived to spread her message to the entire world.

***The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

words: 92,782

reading level: 11.4

interest level: (9th – 12th grades)

When Henrietta Lacks, a poor tobacco farmer from Virginia, dies from cervical cancer in 1951, her family isn't told that cells from her tumor have been taken for further study. Readers will be amazed at how these cells, known as HeLa cells, have impacted the world.

***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah**

words: 49,573

reading level: 6.8

interest level: (9th – 12th grades)

After her mother dies and her father remarries, Adeline becomes one of the unwanted stepchildren. Although Adeline suffers emotional and physical abuse, her aunt and grandfather instill in her a determination to succeed.

***Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America* by Firoozeh Dumas**

words: 51,377

reading level: 9.2

interest level: (9th - 12th grades)

In her memoir of growing up as an Iranian in America, Firoozeh Dumas weaves richly humorous stories of her family's adjustment to everyday life in America, focusing primarily on her father and his unfailing optimism and devotion to his adopted country.

***The Alchemist: A Story About Following Your Dream* by Paulo Coelho**

words: 38,342

reading level: 6.8

interest level: (9th grade-12th grades)

After he meets Melchizedek, the king of Salem, Santiago sells his flock and begins a journey that will help him fulfill his own Personal Legend. On his pilgrimage, he falls in love with Fatima and meets the alchemist, who teaches him many things about himself and human nature.

***The Other Victims: First Person Stories of Non-Jews Persecuted by the Nazis* by Ina Friedman**

words: 48,473

reading level: 8.1

interest level: (9th – 12th grades)

Personal narratives of Christians, Gypsies, deaf people, and blacks who suffered at the hands of the Nazis before and during World War II are compiled into this moving collection.

***City of Thieves* by David Benioff**

words: 82,133

reading level: 6.3

interest level: (9th – 12th grades)

During the Nazis' siege of Leningrad in World War II, seventeen-year-old Russian Lev Beniov and his comrade embark on the seemingly impossible task of obtaining a dozen eggs for a Soviet colonel, with the outcome of their mission determining whether they live or die.

English Assignment

1. Read one book from the **above reading list**.
2. Put a heading on a sheet of notebook paper. Your heading should include your name – first and last, the date, title of the class – Honors English 10, and title of the assignment – Summer Reading.
3. **Complete all work legibly in handwriting – cursive or printed. No typed papers will be accepted.**
4. Write the title and author of the book. Remember to properly punctuate the title of a book by underlining it.
5. Write the number of pages and chapters within the book.
6. Begin by writing a three or four sentence paragraph explaining how and why you chose this particular book from among all the titles on the summer reading list. This can earn up to 25 points.
7. While reading the book, **copy down 20 particularly interesting or significant passages**. A passage can be as short as one sentence or as long as three or four sentences. Before writing the passage on your paper, write the page and chapter number in which it appears.
8. Directly under each passage, **write a two or three sentence explanation of the selected passage**. What did you find interesting about that passage? Why did you find it significant? Remember: write the explanation directly under the passage; in other words, **do not** put all passages together and then put all explanations together. You should have a pattern – passage then explanation, passage then explanation...
9. You will need to choose 20 passages and explanations from throughout the book. As much as possible, you should have an equal number of passages from each chapter. These 20 passages and explanations can earn up to 200 points.
10. Next, write a paragraph or two reflecting on your reaction to this book and the author. This must be at least seven sentences in length. Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not? Can you relate to the author/main character or his/her life or experiences? Do you admire the author/main character? What do you think was the biggest obstacle the author/main character overcame? Why was the author/main character successful or not successful in the end? Did you like how the book ended? Why or why not? Did you find the book easy or difficult to read, and why? Would you recommend the book to others in the class, and why or why not? This reflection can earn up to 75 points.
11. **Reading Test-Be prepared to take a test that demonstrates you read the book. In order to pass the test, you must receive a score of 70%. The test consists of multiple choice reading comprehension questions. However, you will not be able to pass the test if you did not actually read the book. Relying on online book summaries or watching film adaptations in place of reading the book is not a good plan and could end up hurting your grade in this class. The test will take place during the first week of school.**