For English IV, you will choose one novel from the following list to read and annotate for your summer reading assignment. Please make sure that the copy you have can stay with you for the summer and for the first 2-3 weeks of school. As you read, please keep the theme of “identity” in mind. We will discuss this theme at length this year, and you are expected to bring new ideas to our class discussions around this theme.

Choose one of the following novels:

- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
- *March* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult

*These books contain adult language and content.

**Suggested Guidelines for Annotating Texts:**

There is not one “right” way to annotate as you read, but there are some general principles for good annotating that you should keep in mind. You should write marginal notes that consist of questions and comments, which is essentially your dialogue with the text itself. Review the following suggestions frequently as you are completing your assigned reading. Close reading takes more time than quick, superficial reading, but doing so will save you time and anxiety later as you prepare to discuss the literature.

1. Always read with a pen or pencil in hand. This will help you to focus and to stay alert.
2. Always take your time as you begin a new text. Ask yourself questions as you begin: Who is telling the story? What is the setting? What details does the author provide about characters when they are first introduced?
3. Keep a list of characters and their key traits. A good place for this is the inside cover of the book. You can add brief notes to your lists as you read. (*Front and back covers as well as the first and last “blank” pages are also good places to jot notes about important settings, key ideas, and key page numbers.*)
4. Look for patterns as you read. What ideas do you see repeated? As you notice patterns, ask yourself what conclusions you can draw from the repetition of these patterns.
5. Make a quick note at the end of each chapter, indicating the most important points it contained. A good way to make sure you are comprehending what you are reading is to ask yourself what surprised you in this section of the text. Often students can recite key events, but one must comprehend the text to be surprised by it.

6. Think of a memorable title for each chapter and write it down at the beginning. (You can still make your own title even if the author has provided one.)

7. On the first or last page of a chapter, bullet-point the key events as a summary of that section.

8. Use question marks. Be alert to what puzzles you. Good readers do not zip along without stopping to monitor their comprehension. They stop to think and to note what they don’t understand. You should also write down questions you would like to discuss.

9. Of course, you should always pay attention to vocabulary. A strong vocabulary comes from reading, not from memorizing lists. Try to determine meaning from the context. If you are really puzzled by a word, look it up. I also suggest that you use sticky notes in addition to writing marginal notes to give you enough space for your thoughts.

I hope you enjoy your novel of choice. I’m looking forward to discussing it with you when we return to school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Empson