Summer Reading
English IV D.E.

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Theme: Identity

For English IV Dual Enrollment, you will choose two books from the following list to read and annotate for summer reading. Please make sure the copies you have can stay with you for the summer and the first 2-3 weeks of school. As you read, 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.

Choose two of the following books:

Into the Wild by John Krakauer
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
The Grace Year by Kim Liggett
Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand
The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
Allegedly by Tiffany D. Jackson

Suggested Guidelines for Annotating Texts:

There is not one “right” way to take notes as you read, but there are some general principles for good annotating to keep in mind. You should write notes that consist of questions and comments, which is essentially your dialogue with the text. 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. Purchase a copy of the book so you can write in it. Always read with a pen or pencil in hand. This will help you to focus and 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 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. 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 they must comprehend the text to be surprised by it.

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

7. On the last page of a chapter, note 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 note what they don’t understand. You should also write down questions you would like to discuss.

9. 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.

10. Use sticky notes in addition to writing marginal notes to give you enough space for your thoughts.

I hope you enjoy your books of choice! I’m looking forward to discussing them with you when we return to school. I will be checking my email several times a week over the summer, so if you have questions, please get in touch with me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Empson
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