

2020 English II Honors Summer Reading Assignment

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Introduction

The AMCHS English Department believes in the value of choice reading, and that philosophy has led to the following assignment for incoming sophomores who are enrolled in English II Honors.

Assignment

Choose a novel of your choice to read for pleasure over the summer. Then write a letter to your teacher in which you introduce yourself and discuss the book you read for this assignment. **See details and requirements below.** The (typed) letter is due at the **beginning of class on the first day of school**. Students should also be prepared to give a book talk within the first two weeks of school, which will be assessed separately.

**Please note that the English II Honors late work policy is -30 points for one day late, -50 points for two days late, and no work is accepted after two days late except in extenuating circumstances.

Book Requirements

- May be written for teens or adults. NO children's literature! (Sorry - no *Harry Potter*)
 - Check the 'age range' or 'grade level' on amazon.com if you're not sure about your book.
- **No less** than 200 pages in length
- Must be fiction (a made-up story) or narrative nonfiction (true stories, memoirs, not a 'textbook'), any genre
- NOT a book you've read before - no recycling!
- If you need suggestions, contact one of us, a former English teacher, or you can find numerous lists on goodreads or amazon.com based on your interests.

Letter Requirements

1. Letter Format - typed
 - Date
 - Salutation (Dear...)
 - Body of letter
 - Closing (Sincerely...)
2. Letter Content - 5 paragraphs
 - Introduce yourself!
 - i. Name (including nickname, if you have one), where you're from, about your family, what you like doing in your spare time, where you work (if you work), what extracurriculars you're involved in, etc.
 - Introduce your book
 - i. Identify the title and author of the piece you chose
 - ii. Why did you choose this book?
 - iii. Detailed summary of novel. About 5-8 sentences. A good summary is **accurate** (no errors), **balanced** (covers beginning, middle, and end equally), **unbiased** (not colored by your opinions, just the facts), and **original** (not plagiarized or copied from back of book, no quotes). Prove you read!

- Evaluate your book
 - i. Identify 3-4 things you liked/didn't like about the character(s), plot, author's writing style, organization, and/or narrative point of view (just to name a few) and explain why you liked/didn't like each.
 - ii. **At least 3 quotes/passages with MLA citations** (Author and page number) to support your evaluation...OWL @ Purdue is a great resource if you are unsure how to complete this.
- Evaluate yourself as a reader
 - i. In general, do you like reading? Why or why not?
 - ii. When given the choice, what kinds of books do you prefer to read? How does the book you chose for this assignment align with your reading preferences?
 - iii. What are your strengths and weaknesses as a reader?
- Conclusion
 - i. What are you MOST excited about regarding your sophomore year of high school? What are you least excited or nervous about?
 - ii. Is there anything else I should know about you?

Summer Assignment Rubric

Unless otherwise stated, students will be awarded points for following directions and putting forth effort within each requirement, as well as the overall quality of the writing itself.

_____ / 10 points for Letter Format

_____ / 10 points for Introducing Yourself

_____ / 20 points for Introducing the Book

_____ / 20 points for Evaluating the Book

_____ / 20 points for Evaluating Self as Reader

_____ / 10 points for Conclusion

_____ / 10 points for Quality of Writing (appropriate spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and usage)

_____ / 100 points total to be recorded in the 1st Six Weeks Marking Period (Quiz Grade)

NOTE: You will submit your assignment to Turnitin.com the first week of school. **If I have reason to believe you plagiarized part(s) or all of your assignment, you will receive a ZERO for the assignment** and a referral to the principal's office for Academic Dishonesty. Plagiarism includes unauthorized collaboration on an individual assignment, as well as copying or paraphrasing from an outside source without giving credit.