

American Literature
2019 Summer Reading

Welcome to American Literature! This year we are going to explore American culture, heritage, and history through the study of literature. To prepare, this summer you have the choice between reading *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas, or *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain. You do **not** need to read both -- just one. Pace your reading. Putting the reading off until the end of summer is not a good idea.

The Hate U Give
Angie Thomas
Pub. 2017

ISBN: 978-0062498533

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Mark Twain
Pub. 1884

ISBN: 978-0451530943

While you are reading, keep track of quotes that you find interesting or significant, then complete the chart included in this document. You will select ten quotes from the text which identify themes, symbols, characterization, and other significant or interesting portions of the story. You will also provide thorough commentary about the significance of each passage chosen.

This chart will be your first grade in the class and will be out of 20 points. I will collect it on the first day of class.

As you read, consider the following questions. Be ready to discuss and write about these concepts during the first few weeks of class.

- How does this novel reveal the ways in which Americans view themselves?
- What conflicts arise between people and the society or culture surrounding them?
- Did your perception of justice or injustice change as you read the book, and if so, how?
- What is the reality of the American Dream--who gets to dream and who doesn't, and why is that meaningful?
- How are the injustices addressed? How are the conflicts resolved?
 - a) How did you feel about the way the injustices were addressed and/or the conflicts resolved?
 - b) Would you suggest another way to address the injustices or resolve the conflicts?

Name:

Class Period:

Quote (Include Context and page number)	Commentary
Begin with context (who, what, where, when), then include the quote. Finish with the page number that the quote is on.	Commentary is the place for your ideas. What questions does this passage raise for you? What is interesting or significant about it?
Sample: While describing the Washington Varsity Crew Coach, Al Ulbrickson, Brown writes, “In order to attend Franklin High School, he has to row a small boat two miles over to Seattle and back every day for four years.... [At the University of Washington] he excelled in both areas [crew and classes], and when he graduated in 1926, Washington quickly hired him as the freshmen crew coach, and then as head coach” (page 14).	Sample: This quote shows that something taxing and time consuming that Ulbrickson had to do was what brought him his success in life. The rowing he did everyday contributed to his ability to be so successful in rowing later in life. This expresses a theme common in many books; hard work will pay off. This theme is present in Ulbrickson’s life because the hard work he put into rowing everyday led to a payoff – a successful rowing and coaching career. One way this theme is present in other people’s lives is if you put in the work of studying for a test, your pay off will come when you get a good grade.
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Additional notes on character and plot, memorable quotes, use of figurative language, and other points of interest.
