



**Tracy High School**  
315 East Eleventh Street  
Tracy, CA 95376

**Freshman Agricultural Scientific Academy  
Summer Reading Ag/Science Advanced English 2019**

May 15, 2019

Dear Tracy High School Agricultural Scientific Academy Freshman:

Congratulations on being accepted into the Agricultural Scientific Academy at Tracy High School. I look forward to meeting each of you in August. As an incoming Ag/Science student you are required to complete a summer reading assignment. This summer I am requiring you to read only 1 book and complete multiple assignments using that book. You may check your book out from a library, purchase the book that you choose new at most bookstores, or search Amazon.com or another online outlet for either a new or used copy. If you plan to purchase your book online, order early because it may take a week or two before it arrives. An electronic version of any of these books is fine also.

The four books you may choose from are:

*When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka

This novel explores the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

This novel depicts the adolescence of a Native American boy on a reservation and is based on the author's own experiences.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

This novel is about a 15-year old boy "with some behavioral difficulties" who investigates the death of a neighborhood dog.

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

This novel, written in a series of vignettes, is about a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago.

The assignments will be part of your first quarter grade. A detailed explanation of the assignments is on page 2. If you have any questions, email Mrs. Corona at [dcorona@tusd.net](mailto:dcorona@tusd.net). I will check my emails weekly during the summer months.

Have a great summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Corona  
Tracy High School  
Ag/Science Advanced English 1  
[dcorona@tusd.net](mailto:dcorona@tusd.net)

## Reading and Writing Project

### How does this assignment work?

You must read one book from the four listed in the letter. You may choose whichever book seems the most interesting to you. You need to complete the 3 assignments listed for that book. These assignments are due on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 (this is the **SECOND** day of school).

### Assignment #1

Select 5 passages or paragraphs from the novel that you find interesting and important to the overall understanding of the novel. Copy these lines down including the page numbers of the passages. Write a reader response for each passage explaining why that passage is significant to the book. Your responses should be at least 7-9 sentences each in length. This can be typed or handwritten.

### Assignment #2

Write a poem that summarizes the plot of the novel you read.

- The poem must be 12+ lines in length.
- The poem must have a rhyme scheme.
- The poem should be typed or neatly written on binder paper.
- Be prepared to share the poem with the class during the first week.

### Assignment #3

Write a letter to the author of your book. The requirements for your letter are:

- This letter can be handwritten or typed. This letter must be neat; it will be mailed to the author.
- Your letter **must** have a date at the top, a greeting, a properly written body, and a closing that includes your name and signature.
- In the letter you may tell the author why you are reading their novel.
- In the letter you **must** tell the author 2 things that you found interesting in the book.
- You **must** ask the author 2 questions. Your questions can be about the plot, characters, the author's writing process, or about themselves.

Finally, if you and/or your parents would like to have "reminder" texts from me during the summer, please sign up for Remind.com. With this app I cannot see your actual number, but I can send out reminders and information to you. My students usually find these helpful. Directions for your class are included with this letter.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to **Ag/Science Advanced Freshman English!** I'm using Remind to help keep you informed about important news and updates. Remind is a **free** service that allows you to get messages directly on your phone.

Joining my class on Remind is easy. You can choose whether you prefer text messages or smartphone notifications.

### **Signing up for text messages**

1. Text my class code **@6847ba** to the phone number 81010.
2. Reply to the text messages from the Remind team.

### **Signing up for smartphone notifications**

1. Download the Remind app on your Android or iOS device.
2. Open the app and create an account (or log in if you already have one).
3. Tap the + by classes joined and enter my class code **@6847ba**.

That's all you need to do to start receiving messages!

### **A few other things you might like to know:**

- Our personal contact information (like cell phone numbers) will not be visible on Remind.
- All of our messages will be recorded in communication logs that you can access and download.
- I may choose to receive messages on Remind.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I'm looking forward to connecting with you!