

**Shawnee Mission North High School**  
**Honors English Language Arts 1 Summer Reading Assignment 2020**

Parents and Students,

Welcome to Honors English Language Arts I. Click on the link below for a short video of me sharing a bit about myself: [Hello Honors 9.mp4](#)

I would like you to be successful in a rigorous honors program, and because literature and non-fiction works are a major component of the class, I am asking you to begin preparing for the course by completing this summer reading assignment.

**Context:**

Our summer reading texts will serve as anchors that we will continually evaluate, analyze, and reference throughout first semester. Additionally, there will be performance assessments (Socratic seminars, short and extended writings, presentations, and lots of fun) based on these texts. The tasks below are designed to encourage critical thinking and reading. Expectations for your work include showing evidence of depth, meaningful responses, and demonstrating insights of your own thinking (not from online sources).

In order to foster a love of reading while also supporting students academically, I've worked with our local library media specialists to create an extensive book list that will appeal to a broad spectrum of student interests. All texts center on a form of injustice. If making a choice is challenging, rest assured that you will be able to select from this list for the year, in addition to other titles. These book choices have been gathered from recommendations from the National Book Award and been vetted by well-respected panels of preteen/adolescent educators. While all the books on the list are deemed to have strong literary merit, parents, please talk with your student regarding reading plans. I am sensitive to appropriate reading material, but also recognize that what is appropriate varies widely by family.

**Step one--Select ONE of the texts below from the link:**

[Summer Reading 2020 Book Choices](#)

**Resources for Texts:** Texts can be purchased at any bookstore online and checked out through our local Johnson Country library branch. Information for library resource help is below.

**There are also multiple online audio formats:** [Audible Stories](#) [Audiobook Sync](#) [Scribd](#)

**Library Resource:**

Kate McNair, Teen Services Coordinating Librarian  
McNairK@jocolibrary.org

<http://jocolibrary.org/>

8700 Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Merriam, KS 66202  
913.826.4311 (desk) | 913.826.4600 (office)

**Step Two—Complete a dialectical journal using the format linked here:**

[THE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL](#)

**Step Three—Analyzing social injustices in your text:**

Complete the handout linked with directions: [Book Choice Summer Reading Graphic Organizer](#)

**Step Four--Article Analysis:**

We will have multiple opportunities to read and discuss non-fiction works including articles. Our model will be similar to Kelly Gallagher's approach to reading non-fiction texts in an effort to strengthen critical thinking skills, build background knowledge, and broaden reading experience into real word text.

1. Select an article that you would like to read on the topic of one of your injustices from your book. Articles should be timely (not before 2017).

Click on this document for suggested news article sites with links to the sources:  
[Online News Resources](#)

2. Complete the linked assignment from your article reading: [Injustice Article Analysis](#)

**Step Five--Tell me a bit about you:**

Create a short vlog using your computer or write me a brief paragraph. Tell me fun facts, likes, dislikes, anything else you feel comfortable sharing, or something you think I should know.

Post the vlog using Flipgrid with the code below:

1. <https://flipgrid.com/johnsonberry3508>
2. Login with Google (select this)
3. Use school email
4. Click on the green plus sign to begin your recording. Feel free to use the video tools.

If you would like to write a paragraph, share it via Google Doc to:  
[nataliejohnson@smsd.org](mailto:nataliejohnson@smsd.org)

Email me if there are questions. I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall! Enjoy your reading and stay safe.

**Email Contact:** [NatalieJohnson@smsd.org](mailto:NatalieJohnson@smsd.org)

**Class Instagram:** [jb\\_107\\_smn](#) (Follow)

**Mrs. J.B's Personal Twitter:** [@NJB4CHANGE](#) (Follow)

Sincerely,

*Natalie Johnson-Berry*, AKA Mrs. J.B ☺

Honors English Language Arts 9 Teacher

National Board-Certified Teacher

2019 and 2020 District Teacher and Kansas Teacher of the Year nominee

EdD Candidate