

## English I

### Summer Reading Assignment 2020

You're about to embark on the high school journey. The reading selection for ninth grade will focus on the "coming of age story," which serves as a metaphor for the protagonist's psychological and spiritual growth. As you read this summer, consider the various "journeys" you've experienced and how these journeys have shaped your ideas about others, yourself and your world.

I hope you'll have time this summer for trying new things, exploring new books and considering new perspectives. Summer is a wonderful time to read widely and deeply. The texts we read this year will focus on the following essential questions:

- Why is the "personal journey" a recurrent feature of human stories?
- What is the relationship between our stories and our identities?
- How do elements of the personal journey manifest themselves in classic and contemporary literature?

#### **A. Read the following novel and annotate (see specific instructions below):**

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie  
ISBN: 978-0316013697

#### **Synopsis:**

Talented Arnold Spirit leaves his reservation high school to attend a primarily all white high school off the reservation many miles away. How he copes with this change both on and off the reservation will make you laugh-out-loud.

#### **B. Write a formal, well-supported (minimum of two quotes), one-paragraph (8-10 sentences) response to the question below.**

Examine the illustration on page 57 of *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. For Arnold, this drawing represents his conflicted sense-of-self as he chooses to leave his school on the Rez and attend school in Reardan. Over the course of the novel, is Arnold able to reconcile these two seemingly disparate parts of his identity? If so, how?

(Focus on both content and structure; therefore, be sure that your paragraph includes these four things: 1) a strong topic sentence, 2) introductions to both quotes, 3) at least two supporting quotes, and 4) a thorough response to the question.)

## **Annotating Guidelines:**

**1. Throw away the highlighters.** Instead, use a pen or pencil to underline words or phrases that seem **important or interesting**, and then comment on the text, in your margins immediately.

**2. Annotations are the words you write about the text, not the text you underline or highlight.** If you underline words/phrases, your need to write about WHY in your margin, this should guide you to be selective in your annotations. This will also deepen your analysis of the text.

**3. Annotation is a conversation.** When we don't remember what we just read, it's often because we were reading passively. When we actively read a text, we engage in a mental conversation with its ideas and this is what annotating should reflect.

**4. There are many ways to interact with a text.** Everybody has a tendency when it comes to the type of annotations they tend to write – I ask a lot of questions, define words I don't know, make personal connections and comment on language that I find beautiful, challenging or confusing. It varies depending on the type of text I'm reading and my purpose for reading it.

**5. How many annotations do I have to do? Quality over quantity** is good to remember; however, the more you interact with the text, the more you will get out of it, but there is so much more to effective annotation than simply having a lot of it.