

Honors English 9 Summer Reading Assignment

This summer you will need to purchase a copy of *Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief* from the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series by Rick Riordan and read it. If you have already read this book, select the next book in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series.

After you have read the book, complete all parts of the assignment listed below:

- Type a 7-8 sentence paragraph book review giving the following information. Include the title of your book (italicized) and your first and last name at the top. Grammar and spelling count!
 - Sentence 1: Give your opinion of the book. Be specific and give a well-educated opinion. Not, “I liked this book.” Example: *Educated* made me feel many emotions all at once: disgusted, annoyed, appalled, and angry.
 - Sentence 2: Give a general summary of the book without giving spoilers. Example: *Educated* is a memoir about the strange and isolated world of a girl who grew up with no access to a modern education.
 - Sentences 3-4: Describe the writing style. Use good adjectives. Was it fast-paced and suspenseful? Was descriptive and ponderous? Was it comedic and raw?
 - Sentences 5-6: Describe the main character and your opinion on his or her development. Be SPECIFIC. Don’t just tell me a character is interesting; tell me WHY. Ex: Tara Westover conveys her inner conflict towards her brother, Shawn, with such balance. She loves him because he is her brother, but she does not shy away from exploring the mental and emotional harm he causes her later on in her life.
 - Sentences 7-8: Summarize your overall thoughts on the book and to whom you would recommend it.

- Create three neat, organized Venn diagrams comparing and contrasting three Greek/Roman gods/heroes as portrayed by Rick Riordan in your book and as portrayed in Greek/Roman mythology. Include your book title and first and last name at the top.
 - Contrasting aspects of the god/hero should be listed on the far left or far right of the Venn diagram according to the section header. Label the left side “Riordan’s Portrayal of [insert god/hero’s name]. Label the right side “Mythology’s Portrayal of [insert god/hero’s name]. Comparable aspects of the god/hero should be listed in the center, overlapping section.
 - Use a credible encyclopedia, such as britannica.com, to research each god/hero as portrayed within Greek/Roman mythology. Do not use wikipedia. List your source at the bottom of the page. ○ Each section of each Venn diagram must include at least four bullet points -- do not list obvious points of comparison or contrast. (Ex: Both the book and mythology portray Zeus as a male. In the book, Zeus does not speak Ancient Greek.) These points should prove that you truly engaged with the book and did thorough research.

Honors English 10 Summer Reading Assignment

Reading: Choose one book from the list below. Your choice should be a book that you have never read before. It

must be a different one from the one you are reading for the Summer Reading Book Club. • Read the book thoroughly from cover to cover.

Book List

Ellen Foster by Kaye Gibbons: Having suffered in the care of her abusive father, Ellen gets tossed around from one household to another in foster care.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles: Knowles' classic tale of two high-school boys standing on the threshold of war and adulthood comes to the stage. Gene Forrester is a careful, studious young man, full of fear of the future. As America is about to enter World War II, Gene attends summer school at Devon in New England.

Into Thin Air by John Krakauer: A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more—including Krakauer's—in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan: Four mothers, four daughters, four families, whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's telling the stories. In 1949, four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. United in loss and new hope for their daughters' futures, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club.

My Losing Season by Pat Conroy: Pat Conroy's American classic about young men and the bonds they form, about losing and the lessons it imparts, about finding one's voice and one's self in the midst of defeat; this is the story of young Conroy's walk from his life as an athlete to the writer the world knows him to be.

- *Annotate* as you read (mark the book with a pen, write notes in the margins, or put sticky notes on your favorite sections).

When you get back from the summer, I will check your book to see that you annotated, but DON'T annotate for me—do it for *you*. Practice “close reading.” Annotate for passages that have meaning for you, for passages that you think indicate a theme, and for vocabulary words you do not know.

- Write an essay that (1) identifies the conflicts the character faces (2) assesses whether the main character deals with the conflicts he or she faces successfully or not and (3) identifies a theme that arises out of the way the character deals with the conflicts.

Tips for a Successful Essay:

1. The essay should be multi-paragraph
2. The introductory paragraph should have a thesis statement
3. You should use MLA format

Honors English 11 Summer Reading Assignment

Amusing Ourselves to Death, 20th Anniversary Edition by Neil Postman

Purchase a new or gently used copy of this edition of the book with little to no writing in it. Do not re-use a copy that has been already annotated by a student. Annotations will be graded.

In a panel discussion at the Frankfurt, Germany Book Fair in 1985, educator Neil Postman made the following assertion: The state of public discourse on display in the contemporary world of the time was better reflected by the events of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, whose public was addicted to amusement, than by the state control displayed in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Assignment: Though you have not likely read either of those books, consider this assertion by Postman while reading and annotating your copy of the text. Throughout the book (including the introduction by Andrew Postman), annotate for claims that the writer makes, along with key supporting evidence. In the margins of your book, respond to those claims, ask questions about them, and consider how applicable they are in today's world. Then in a well-developed essay, analyze to what extent Postman's assertions about television, information, and/or discourse are valid today and explain how, using appropriate evidence.

Guidelines: MLA format, 2-3 pages, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with proper documentation and works cited page. Bring your book and essay to class on the first instructional day.

A.P. Language and Composition (11th Grade)

Summer Reading Assignment

Choose a book from the following list that you have not yet read before and read it. It must be a different one from the one you are reading for the Summer Reading Book Club. Do not listen to an audio version, and do not consult any type of notes like Sparknotes. Do not read the young reader's or young adult adaptations of the books.

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel Brown

Educated by Tara Westover

1. Annotate as you read, particularly for passages that are meaningful to you in some way, passages that relate to theme, or passages that represent a pattern of literary or rhetorical devices.
2. Write a book review in which you reveal the main idea or ideas in the book and tell how the writer presents those ideas in a unique way. Do this **on your own without consulting friends or looking at existing reviews on this book.**
 - Your book review should be in MLA format and have between 600 and 800 words.
 - Start with something personal that leads to a connection with the book.

- Talk about a major theme or two in the book that connected with you.
- As you do this, discuss what makes the book work. Discuss the distinctive way or ways in which the author writes this book. Try to discuss the author's style of writing.
- Use several quotations along the way.
- Be a genial critic. Talk mostly about the positives of the book, though you may qualify them. Make your reader want to read the book.
- Proofread your review. The book title should be in italics, write in present tense for events in the book, put commas before quotation marks, etc.
- Make your review lively. Take literary chances. Be creative.

3. Analyze the author's style.

- List at least three devices or strategies that the author includes in his or her book. You might consider the following devices: symbolism, figurative language, description, anecdotes, the appeals-(ethos, logos, pathos), flashback, foreshadowing, and complex sentence structure
- For each device or strategy, find three examples from the book and write them down.

When school begins, you write an in class essay over your book using your annotations..

Honors Dual-Enrolled English 12 Summer Reading Assignment

Each of the following works of non-fiction has a persuasive point. Choose one of the books below and, after reading, complete 5 journal entries from the questions listed. Each journal entry should be a minimum of 200 words. You must type your answers, be thorough, and use good grammar and spelling.

You must choose a book you haven't read before and you must choose a different book from the one you are reading for the Summer Reading Book Club.

- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference* by Warren St. John Do not read the Young Reader's version
- *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton
- *Riding the Bus with my Sister* by Rachel Simon
- *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg

1. Explain the author's purpose in telling the story? Why is he/she telling it? Is there some greater motive? If so, what is it and how do you know? Include textual evidence to support your answer.
2. What is the rhetorical context for your chosen book? In other words, what social, cultural, political, or other circumstances motivated the author to write the book? What was going on in the world at the time the book was written and published to prompt its creation?
3. What types of evidence or tools of persuasion does the author use to convince you?
4. How does the author address the counterargument, the opposing side?
5. The author of each of these books serves as a character within the story itself. What does this add to the story?

A.P. Literature and Composition (12th Grade)

Summer Reading Assignment

All of the following are coming of age novels, or bildungsromans, which recount the psychological or moral development of a protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Choose a novel you have never read before from the list below. You cannot choose the same book you are reading for Summer Reading Book Clubs. After reading, select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist and write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.

- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger

When you return to school, bring your essay to class. Your teacher will review the rubric and you will turn in your final essay on your second day of class.