



Freshman English Literature I: Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Freshman Literature class! This course is a survey of literature by authors with various backgrounds, and we will be exploring several historical and cultural contexts, as well as themes that pertain to both the individual and society. This summer, you are assigned to read two books to begin this course's array of literature. You will also complete some written assignments to begin building the close reading and writing skills that we will develop throughout the school year. The summer reading books (one required and one of your choice) are listed below, followed by the assignments that should be completed during the reading process. **All written assignments are due the first full day of school.**

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ms. Gustin at julia.gustin@saintjosephprep.org.

Required reading book:

- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho (Harper One Publishers 25th Edition ISBN 9780062315007)

Please **choose ONE** of the following:

- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo (Quill Tree Books; Reprint edition 2020. ISBN 9780062662811)
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition 2009. ISBN 9780316013697)

Tasks:

1. Please reference the annotation checklist attached below and while you read, annotate (mark up/take notes in) your book as you go. This is intended to encourage active reading in which you are engaged in the material and noting important developments or literary elements.
2. For each of the two books you read, please **choose THREE QUOTATIONS** that you feel are particularly significant to that book (refer back to what you annotated!).
 - a. These can be quotations that you feel demonstrate a vital part of a character's identity, illustrate a particular theme in the story, or indicate some symbolic/deeper meaning of an aspect of the story.
 - b. Some thematic topics to look for in these books include the following:
 - i. Identity/Sense of Self
 - ii. Friendship
 - iii. Family/Home
 - iv. Dreams/Hopes
 - v. Tradition
3. Once you have chosen the three quotes per text, please **write one paragraph for each quote** in which you analyze and explain the significance of that quote to the text. You should consider questions like: Why is this quotation important in order to understand the character's development? What about this quote showcases a theme particularly well? Why would the author include this symbol in the work? Therefore, at the end of the assignment you should have 3 paragraphs written for each book.

Please review the following definitions to help you in your analysis:

- **Theme:** A central and underlying message that the author is conveying in a work of literature.
- **Symbol:** An object, action, event, etc. that means something more than its literal meaning, representing something more significant to the work than it may initially seem.

Annotation Checklist:

- Mark passages that connect to themes listed above
- Mark passages that illustrate particular character traits or a character's development
- Identify any interesting/strong/unique word choices that you think are important
- Make connections to other books/real life
- Push beyond just underlining or highlighting - make a quick note or comment about WHY that section is important