



INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY

A Catholic College Preparatory for Young Women, Est. in 1873

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ENGLISH III: AMERICAN LITERATURE

Summer Reading Assignment

For summer reading, you will select one of the books from the following list and read it before returning to school in the Fall. In addition to reading the novel, you will be asked to complete a review of the novel, attached as the last page as the last page of this document.

Please choose a novel that you have not read before.

- *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *Educated* by Tara Westover
- *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin

During the first full week of school, you will write an in class essay over the universal themes in the novel that you read. This will count as a major grade for the 1st Quarter. Use the guidelines below to annotate the book you have read. This will help you to organize your thoughts, connect with the text and ultimately to remember it after a long summer. Your annotations will not be collected; however, you will turn in a Book Review sheet for your novel on the first full day of class.

Ideas for annotating Literature

- Use a pen so you can make circles, brackets, and notes. If you like highlighters use one for key passages, but don't get carried away and don't only highlight.
- Look for patterns and label them (motifs, diction, syntax, symbols, images, and behavior, whatever).
- Mark passages that seem to jump out at you because they suggest an important idea or theme of for any other reason (an arresting figure of speech or image an intriguing sentence pattern, a striking example of foreshadowing, a key moment in the plot, a bit of dialogue that reveals character, clues about the setting etc.)

- Mark phrases, sentences, or passages that puzzle, intrigue, please, or displease you. Ask questions, make comments, talk back to the text.
- At the ends of chapters or sections, write a bulleted list of key plot events. This not only forces you to think about what happened, see the novel as whole, and identify patterns, but you create a convenient record of the whole plot.
- Circle words you want to learn or words that jump out at you for some reason. If you don't want to stop reading, guess then, look the word up, and jot down the relevant meaning later. You need not write out a full dictionary definition; it is often helpful to put the relevant meaning in your own words.

BOOK REVIEW SHEET

Instructions: While reading the novel that you have selected, you will need to fill out the following points on this sheet. Please type your answers on a separate document.

1. Title and Author:
2. Main Characters:
3. Three scenes most important for developing main character(s):
4. Important minor characters and their impact on the plot/theme:
5. Setting(s) of importance:
6. Impact of setting(s) on conflict:
7. Main conflict and minor conflicts:
8. Motifs and symbols:
9. Theme/s (these should each be a sentence):
10. Narrative point of view: