

Dear Upcoming **10th Grade Honors English Students:**

By applying for Honors English, you accepted the challenge to work a little harder and become a stronger student, which begins with your summer reading!

**1) Choose one (1) of the following novels:**

*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines

*Kindred* by Octavia Butler

*In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez

*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

*The Memory of Old Jack* by Wendell Berry

*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton

*All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Remarque

*The Bonesetter's Daughter* OR *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

*Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

*Sula* or any other novel by Toni Morrison

*The Road* OR *All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

*Slaughterhouse Five* or any novel by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

**2) Required:**

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

You will be held accountable for this reading of these **two texts** in the first week of school. It is your responsibility to be done reading by that point, and extensions will not be granted.

During the first week of school, expect writing prompts, discussion prompts, and creative assignments focusing on your reading. It will be to your advantage if you take some kind of notes and pay meticulous attention to the readings. Also, consider **connections among the texts** as you read and take notes/reflect.

Please recognize that it is perfectly acceptable to struggle with some of your reading; you only become a better reader by finding material that causes you to reach and struggle. If you consult other sources to aid your comprehension, make sure you use these sources to *support* your comprehension and *not replace* the reading of the text itself. Doing independent research about the time period of each text may be helpful to you.

Some of the texts deal with mature topics or use language that you might find offensive. It would be to your benefit to do a little research before choosing your novel to ensure that the subject matter and language are within your acceptable reading standards. If you run into something you are uncomfortable reading, choose a new text!

**PLEASE NOTE:**

This is not something you can put off until the last week of the summer, so get started as soon as possible. Some of the reading will be difficult. Plan ahead: give yourself enough time to switch texts if you find one that you do not like. You are responsible for obtaining copies of the texts either through a library, a bookstore, or borrowing from a friend.

Remember, you are making a commitment as an honors student to complete your work to the best of your ability. I expect an honors performance. Please plan accordingly with your time. If you lose this list, you can find it on the school website.

I look forward to meeting you in August or January! Feel free to email me with questions. Happy reading!

Nick Helfrick

[nick.helfrick@jeffcityschools.org](mailto:nick.helfrick@jeffcityschools.org)