

Summer Reading Assignment Advanced English II

Students planning to take Pre-AP English II are expected to continue learning during the summer. Students must continue honing their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills in order to continue developing at an advanced level. This course is designed for proficient readers and writers who are motivated to attain a university degree. Managing time and avoiding procrastination are important skills for success, so plan a realistic reading schedule. If you have any questions about this assignment, you may email Ms. Sullivan at shelbysullivan@huffmanisd.net

Whether you realize it or not, the foods we grow up on, the cultures we are exposed to, and the events that shape us are all interconnected. Nguyen's autobiography details her journey through adolescence as someone who feels like an outsider when compared to the world around her. A way she found solace and comfort was through food, both American and eventually her native Vietnamese cuisine. Through iconic foods and staple dishes, Nguyen chronicles her journey to acceptance and discovery of her own unique identity.

For the memoir, you can use an online/ ebook or go to a local bookstore for a hardcopy. You don't need a new/ expensive copy of the book to complete the summer reading. If you have any trouble getting a hold of the text, please let me know ASAP!

- Summer reading title: *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* by Bich Minh Nguyen
 - This is a guaranteed resource from the district/ state via Savvas
 - Author's name is pronounced "Bit"

Here is a description of the autobiography via Google Books:

"A vivid, funny, and viscerally powerful memoir about childhood, assimilation, food, and growing up in the 1980s. As a Vietnamese girl coming of age in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bich (Bit) Nguyen is filled with a rapacious hunger for American identity. In the pre-PC era Midwest, where the devoutly Christian blond-haired, blue-eyed Jennifers and Tiffanys reign supreme, Nguyen's barely conscious desire to belong transmutes into a passion for American food. More exotic seeming than her Buddhist grandmother's traditional specialties: spring rolls, delicate pancakes stuffed with meats, and fried shrimp cakes. The campy, preservative-filled delicacies of mainstream America capture her imagination. And, in this remarkable book, the glossy branded allure of such American foods as Pringles, Kit Kats, and Toll House cookies become an ingenious metaphor for her struggle to fit in, to become a real American. Beginning with Nguyen's family's harrowing migration from Saigon in 1975, "Stealing Buddha's Dinner" is nostalgic and candid, deeply satisfying and minutely observed, and stands as a unique vision of the immigrant experience and a lyrical ode to how identity is often shaped by the things we long for."

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The Assignment

I will provide an example that you may use for inspiration/ guidance.

The portion that must be completed **before** school starts is the following: You will create your own family cookbook filled with recipes, photos, and anecdotes. The best medium for this will be Canva or another similar design site. You may need to make an account, but a basic membership is free (with restrictions). You do not need to print and bind your cookbook together, it will be submitted digitally.

Your cookbook must contain the following:

- Cover page “Stealing ___(your name)___’s Dinner”
- Table of Contents
- About the author page (a picture of you with your background info)
- Favorite Snacks page (with little blurbs about the positive memories connected with them)
- 7 recipe pages complete with a photo, anecdote that correlates with the dish, and the actual recipe
- Last page- personal connection to how the food of your life/ family/ culture has influenced your personal growth

Please note that the project is not the only assignment that we will be doing over the summer reading. Once school is back in session, there will be several graded assignments over the memoir that will test your recall of the reading, clarity of concepts, and comprehension. It is expected that you will invest the appropriate amount of time and effort into the summer reading so that you can continue to be successful once the fall semester begins.