LITERATURE OF CONTROVERSY (all semesters must complete)

Teachers: Ms. Emma Luem, Ms. Daniella Moshi

ASSIGNMENT #1: Banned/Censored Choice Novel

Over the summer, you are tasked with reading and annotating a controversial young adult book of your choice (see option list below). Please include at least 2-4 meaningful annotations per chapter/section.

When we return to school in August/January, you will be asked to use your annotations to guide in class discussions, graded discussions, and craft a meaningful piece of writing.

ANNOTATION/READING STRATEGIES

While annotating you can...

1. Form a connection to your personal life, the world around you, or to another text.
2. Ask a question about the information you are taking in.
3. Summarize or clarify long, confusing, or important passages that you may want to recall later on.
4. Make a prediction about what could happen next.
5. Make an inference about how a character feels about their surroundings, other characters, the conflict, etc.
6. Define unfamiliar vocabulary. Try to use context clues!
7. Evaluate or form an opinion about something mentioned in the text.

Remember:
Your annotations should be written out; otherwise, it’s unclear why you marked a specific passage.

Novel Options:
These books may contain some mature/adult content or graphic scenes. We urge you to choose a book with a parent’s or guardian’s guidance.
The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khalid Hosseini

Directions:
- Purchase a new or unmarked used copy of the book.
- Read your book.
- As you read, annotate using the listed strategies above as well as the strategies you have learned at SJA.
ASSIGNMENT #2: LEARNING ABOUT WHY BOOKS ARE BANNED

In addition to completing the assignment above, you need to read and annotate the following articles about banned books. Please bring the printed articles with your annotations to class the first week of school (in August/January).

1. “I Read the 10 Most Banned Books in the US and This Is What I Learned” by Tess Lowery: In this opinion piece, the author goes on a journey to read several banned books. This article lays out her key takeaways.

2. “Banned Books - Top 3 Pros and Cons” by Britannica: In this nonpartisan article, Britannica, a non-profit organization, briefly summarizes the top “pros and cons” for banning, censoring, or challenging books. It clarifies the main arguments held by both sides.