



ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

2024 Summer Reading

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.

(continued)

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.