

Honors English I Summer Reading Information

Hello, Freshmen! I am excited about our year to come. Be sure to complete your summer reading and come ready to learn together. Feel free to email me if you have any questions. Although you do not have an assignment to bring with you, we will be addressing these books in detail in the first days of school. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Everyone will read two books (Don't panic. One of them is very short.):

- ***Within These Lines* by Stephanie Morrill** - A story told from two points of view, this book explores the experiences of a Japanese-American family just after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. We hear from the voices of Tai Chi, the son of the Japanese-American family and Evalina, a young Italian-American girl who has become his friend. Read carefully. Enjoy the story.
- ***On the Horizon* by Lois Lowry** is a collection of poems about Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima, both major events in World War II. It also approaches the events from different perspectives. Although it is quite short, do not rush through it. Be sure to reflect on each poem and make notes. Some suggestions:
 - Read each poem more than once. They are short. It will not take you much time.
 - Read the poems aloud. I know this feels a little weird, but it will help you to hear what the author is trying to communicate.
 - Be sure to read sentences, not lines.
 - Think about the emotion communicated in each of the poems. Make notes.

Basic Reading Instructions:

Read carefully for **detail and meaning**. Read with a pen or pencil in your hand and make notes in your book as you read.

SOME IDEAS ABOUT ANNOTATING:

- Write in the margin about important things that help you know more about the main characters.
- Write in the margin when you come across an event that you think significantly changes things in the story.
- Mark information that seems to contribute specifically to meaning. Write words that will remind you of what you were thinking when you marked it.
- Mark an important quotation from each chapter.
- **At the end of each chapter, write a brief, bullet-point list of the important events of that chapter. This is a very helpful tool later when you go back to the book for discussion and writing.**
- For *On the Horizon*, think about the emotions connected with each poem. Notice the ways that poems in each of the three sections are related to each other. Note anything that stands out to you, makes you think, makes you feel. Write some words so you remember what you were thinking.

Back to school:

We will not waste the first day of school! Come ready to talk and write about the books. You can expect an assessment in the first couple of days of the school year.

Supplies for class:

- Every day, you will need some paper, some pens and pencils, and a fully charged computer.
- Bring your charger to school with you!
- Bring one of the following on the first day of class:
 - a box of sharpened pencils
 - a box of tissues.